

Battered Basra
Page Five



Manila drama - Gunman in force loyal to ousted president Ferdinand Marcos stands guard on roof of Manila TV station. Rebels continued to hold station last night, after their attempted



coups failed. At right, President Corazon Aquino attends Mass during dramatic day's events. (See story, page three) (Reuters telephoto)

After Fahd mediation

Kuwait talks: Assad meets with Mubarak

By YEHUDA LITANI
Post Middle East Editor
and Agencies

Egypt's Hosni Mubarak and Syria's Hafez Assad walked hand-in-hand into the Islamic summit in Kuwait yesterday - following unconfirmed reports they also had met privately. The public display of friendliness between the estranged leaders underlined the historic reversal in Egypt's relations with the Arab world - from complete rupture after the 1979 signing of the Israeli peace treaty to the present reconciliation.

But addressing the summit later, Assad demanded that Egypt sever relations with Israel: "An Arab cannot be at the same time with the Arabs and with Israel. We must put an end to existing relations between Israel and certain other Arabs," Assad declared.

But he refrained from any personal criticism of Mubarak, another sign of improvement in their personal relationship. Mubarak said he would not respond to Assad's criticism of Egypt, so as to preserve the harmony of the conference.

A move towards Syrian-Egyptian reconciliation has apparently been promoted by Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, informed sources said. Gulf news agencies reported that Fahd met with the two leaders both

in a meeting with Egyptian advisors and intellectuals last week in Cairo. Mubarak was asked by one of the leftist participants: "Why can't Egypt terminate its relations with Israel?"

Mubarak answered that breaking relations with Israel could mean war. "For such a war, we need weapons," he reportedly added. "The only source we can turn to is the United States. The United States would never give us arms - so just forget about the whole idea."

together and separately prior to their entry into the summit session. Assad is hoping to get more aid from the Saudis and other Gulf states for his shaky economy.

Fahd sought the reconciliation in order to unify the Arab world and to cool relations between Iran and Syria. Iran's main ally in the Gulf War.

Syria has been Egypt's most bitter enemy since the 1978 Camp David accords, and any thaw in their relations means an end to the isolation imposed on Egypt after the peace treaty.

Only last week, at the pre-summit sessions, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shar'a proposed that Egypt be excluded from the conference because of its relations with Israel. But the move was rejected by (Continued on Back Page)

Hospital strike hangs in balance

By DVORAH GEZLER, JUDY SIEGEL
and MENACHEM SHALEV
Jerusalem Post Reporters

Late last night there was still no indication that the government hospitals' 10,000 administrative and maintenance workers would accept the proposal of Finance Minister Moshe Nissim to call off the strike scheduled for this morning. Nissim wants a two-week hold on the strike. In return, he said, he would immediately convene the committee examining their wage dispute.

The workers want their salaries and work conditions brought into line with those in Kupat Holim hospitals. Talks to this end have been going on since the early 1970s in the Padeh Committee. But the workers claim that the committee is powerless.

The committee, which met at the request of Health Minister Shoshana Arbeli-Almosino, also asked Hataf Secretary-General Yehiel Bessari to take an active part in the negotiations and appealed to the workers to call off the strike and give the Padeh Committee more time.

Attending the meeting were workers' representatives, who had been dramatically summoned by committee chairman Ota Namir. They said the workers were ready to go to jail for flouting court orders. One man had told them that at least in jail he would get a meal to eat, something he was not otherwise sure of having.

(Continued on Back Page)

Herut back-benchers seek probe of Balas donations

By SARAH HONIG
and YORAM GAZIT
TEL AVIV - Labour yesterday denied that any wrongdoing was involved in businessman David Balas's contributions to the party. But Likud politicians demanded a thorough and a full investigation into the nature of what Labour maintains were voluntary campaign contributions.

The controversy flared up again yesterday, after Young Herut members filed a complaint with the

national police fraud squad here. The police spokesman would not detail the nature of the complaint, but said an investigation might also involve an expensive watch Balas gave to Labour leader Shimon Peres. Police would now have to decide whether to open an investigation, he added.

Young Herut also wants the police to investigate amounts which Balas claims he made available to cover the election debts of Ezer Weizman. (Continued on Page 9)

We are sitting shiva following the death of our dear

RENA MALKA ZIMAND

(née Deutsch)

Dr. Honoris Causae

at the Sharon Hotel, Herzliya

Those wishing to pay condolence visits are asked to avoid the period, 1-4 p.m.

The Bereaved Family

HIJACKER'S BROTHER CAUGHT IN GERMANY

Beirut search for missing UK envoy

Post Middle East Staff
and Agencies

Beirut's latest hostage crisis appeared to deepen yesterday, as Britain launched a search for envoy Terry Waite, missing for more than a week in the Lebanese capital.

In other developments, West German police arrested the brother of the accused hijacker whose apprehension spurred the current crisis. At the same time, a German newspaper reported that the Bonn government had sent a special envoy to Beirut, to seek the release of two German nationals kidnapped by the Islamic Jihad.

Another man, apparently a Saudi national, was also kidnapped Monday by unidentified gunmen.

The search for Waite was ordered by British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe, who told ambassador John Gray to look for the missing envoy in West Beirut. The move followed growing concern over Waite's safety, after reports that the Archbishop of Canterbury's emissary was being held by the captors of foreign hostages whose freedom he

sought to arrange.

"I am concerned to know more about Mr. Waite's whereabouts, and I hope the people with whom he is staying will give us more information," Gray told Reuters in Beirut. In London, Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie told a news conference: "We are, of course, greatly concerned for Terry Waite's safety, and for the success of his mission."

Waite's mother, Lena, said her son's mission appeared to be "worse than normal. We've not heard from him for more than a week. It's not like Terry; he always rings."

Reports from Bonn said that Ali Abbas Hamadei, brother of suspected TWA hijacker Mohammed Ali Hamadei, was taken into custody at Frankfurt Airport on Monday night. After his flat in the Saar district was searched, four other suspects were arrested in different German cities. All are believed linked to the kidnappers of Rudolf Cordes and Alfred Schmidt, the two German nationals kidnapped last week in Beirut.

Bonn sources said that the U.S. request for the extradition of Mohammed Ali Hamadei, suspected of taking part in the hijacking of a TWA airliner to Beirut last year, was still in the stage of preliminary examination at the Justice Ministry.

The West German newspaper Bild said that Bernhard Fischer, a negotiator of the Bonn government, flew to Larnaca in Cyprus on Sunday. He then took a helicopter to Beirut, according to the report. Fischer reportedly told reporters in Larnaca that he was on "private business."

Well-informed sources in Bonn told the Associated Press that a middleman had gone to Beirut to seek the release of Cordes and Schmidt. But the sources denied a Bild report that a large sum of money, for ransom, had been flown to the Lebanese capital over the weekend.

Waite slipped out of his hotel a week ago for what his Druse militia bodyguards said were meetings with the kidnappers and hostages.

A Beirut dispatch from the

Kuwaiti news agency Kuna Monday night said Waite had been placed under "house arrest" after failing to reach a quick agreement with the kidnappers. Kuwait Monday repeated its refusal to release the 17 prisoners.

The leftist As-Safir newspaper quoted informed sources as saying that after Waite left his hotel last Tuesday night he went with his bodyguards to a nearby building opposite the American University of Beirut.

"He returned a few minutes later and asked his Druse escorts to leave him alone because he had to make some contacts in private," As-Safir said.

The newspaper said he told his bodyguards he would go outside the capital to a place believed to be in the Shiite Moslem southern suburbs. He left with unidentified gunmen.

Since Waite arrived in Beirut on January 12, nine foreigners have been kidnapped, the latest being Saudi Khaled Deeb.

In addition four blond, foreign-looking men have been seized in the past four days, witnesses said.

Gorbachev asks secret party votes

MOSCOW (Reuters). - Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, extending his drive for political reform, said yesterday senior Communist Party officials should be elected by secret ballot and more than one candidate should stand for an office.

Speaking at a party Central Committee meeting in Moscow, Gorbachev also said a special party conference should be held next year to discuss how to broaden democratic procedures in public activity. It would be the first such meeting since 1941.

Gorbachev said party leaders at republic, regional, city and district levels should be elected by secret vote and added that the ruling Politburo believed democratic principles should apply even to the highest party organs in Moscow.

"The Politburo's opinion is that further democratization should apply to the formation of the central leading bodies of the party. I think this is quite logical," he said.

The proposals, if approved by the Central Committee, would represent a sweeping break with current Soviet practice. Officials are, at present, chosen behind closed doors and then formally elected by an open show of hands at party meetings.

Gorbachev's reference to the Central Committee secretariat, which is responsible for day-to-day running of the party machine, could also be elected in less restricted procedures.

Gorbachev said, "The point at issue is, certainly, not any break-up of our political system. Socialist democracy has nothing in common with permissiveness, irresponsibility and anarchy."

Vowing the party leadership would tolerate no let-up in its drive for change, he said: "Some comrades apparently find it hard to understand that democracy is not just a slogan."

"They must change their views and habits so as not to find themselves left aside from the mainstream of life. This is our persistent advice to all who are still doubting and slow."

As has become his practice, Gorbachev included scathing criticisms of the era of the late Leonid Brezhnev in his speech. But he broke fresh ground by suggesting its concepts were rooted in Stalinist practices.

"Vigorous debates and creative ideas disappeared from theory and social sciences, while authoritarian evaluations and opinions became unquestionable truths that could only be commented on."

He said the last years of the Brezhnev period saw a "spread of alcohol and drug abuse and a rise in crime" while the leadership ignored the needs of the ordinary people.

The country lived through creation of a "world of make-believe" where major problems were covered up with campaigns and celebrations while bureaucracy crippled the economy and stifled cultural life, the Kremlin chief declared.

Prof. Galia Golan, the Hebrew University Sovietologist, told The Jerusalem Post last night that Gorbachev's proposals constitute "a very significant" development in his drive for reforms in the Soviet Union.

Golan said that political reform was "the most dangerous reform of them all," as evidenced by the failures of similar Eastern European attempts in Hungary (1956), Czechoslovakia (1968) and Poland (1981). Golan added that Communist Party functionaries who had thrived on the former system would doubtless feel threatened by Gorbachev's proposals. She said that despite the scepticism voiced by many experts in the West, Gorbachev "has now taken a fundamental, crucial" step towards a complete overhaul of the Soviet system.

Hurwitz won't leave banking

Eli Hurwitz has not yet ended his banking career. The Jerusalem Post has learned that Hurwitz will stay on for the time being as Chairman of Bank Leumi Trust Company of New York, the bank's largest single foreign subsidiary. Hurwitz was elected chairman of BLTNY several months ago, and Leumi sources explained yesterday that were he to stand down, the new chairman, Meir Heth, would be obliged to go to New York and be formally voted as new chairman of the bank's American operation.

(See story page 9)

Fuss erupts hour after deal signed

By AVI TEMKIN
Post Economic Reporter

A dispute over the interpretation of the new economic package deal erupted yesterday, barely an hour after the heads of Treasury, the Histadrut and the private employers initiated it. While the Treasury insists that the accord precludes any wage increases during 1987 beyond cost-of-living increments, the Histadrut claims the accord does not affect collective wage agreements.

The accord will be formally signed when Vice Premier Shimon Peres returns from abroad. Yesterday's ceremony at the Treasury was made possible by the agreement reached on Monday between the Histadrut and the Treasury on additional funds for Kupat Holim Clalit.

Finance Minister Moshe Nissim came under sharp attack last night from fellow Likud members for his "capitulation" to financial demands of Kupat Holim, Solel Boneh and other Labour-affiliated bodies.

According to the agreement, the (Continued on Page 9)

Europeans to review Middle East stand

Jerusalem Post Staff
and Agencies

BRUSSELS - European Community states are to review their stand on the Middle East, including their demand that PLO representatives be included in any new peace initiative, EC President and Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans said yesterday.

Tindemans told reporters after he chaired a meeting between Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and his EC counterparts that the community would hold a special one-day conference next month devoted to reviving the stalled Middle East peace process. At that time the EC's entire position would be reconsidered, he said.

Labour Party members have called for a "reevaluation" of the national unity partnership with the Likud in the wake of Likud attacks on Foreign Minister Peres for statements he made in Europe. Party chairman Rafi Eder, who has summoned an urgent party meeting for tonight, said that he would call on Prime Minister Shamir to put an end to these attacks, because "otherwise the partnership cannot continue."

In the so-called "Venice Declaration" of June 1980, the community called for representatives of the PLO to be involved in any peace talks. Tindemans told a joint news conference (Continued on Page 9)

Hawke says confederation is possible solution

By GREER FAY CASHMAN
BENNY MORRIS
and ERNIE MEYER

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke last night reiterated his gov-

ernment's support for the Palestinians' right to self-determination - including the right to establish an independent state if they so choose.

But Hawke also said that he had learned in his discussions in Jordan that a confederation between the West Bank and Jordan was a possible solution to the Palestinian problem.

The Australian leader was speaking at the Knesset at a state dinner hosted by Prime Minister Shamir. Hawke arrived in Israel from Amsterdam on Monday.

Hawke's comments had been very carefully drafted in consultation with the Australian Foreign Ministry in Canberra. They closely followed what he had said about Israel and the Palestinians when he hosted a state luncheon for President Herzog in Canberra last November.

Hawke stressed that Australia re- (Continued on Page 9)

The Management of Bikur Cholim Hospital, Jerusalem mourns the death of a very noble man

ALBERT (Avraham Menachem) MAZRI ז"ל

son of Reb Josef ז"ל

who donated an intensive care unit in the Pulmonary Department of Bikur Cholim Hospital

We offer condolences to the family

תנחומים אלה יאמרו לך שאתה אבי צדיק וירושלמי

May you be free of all further sorrows, and may you find consolation in good deeds.

Management

Medical and Administrative Staff

Bikur Cholim Hospital, Jerusalem

The weather at major Swissair destinations

	27.1.87	28.1.87	29.1.87	30.1.87
	C	F	C	F
AMSTERDAM	-1	30	2	36
BRUSSELS	-1	30	4	39
BUENOS AIRES	14	57	16	61
CHICAGO	-19	-3	-12	9
COPENHAGEN	8	47	10	50
FRANKFURT	1	34	4	39
GENEVA	-5	23	3	37
HELSINKI	-15	7	9	32
HONG KONG	12	54	15	59
JERUSALEM	15	59	17	63
LONDON	4	39	7	45
MADRID	-1	30	4	39
MONTREAL	-28	-18	-14	7
NEW YORK	-13	9	-5	23
PARIS	4	39	7	45
ROME	11	52	14	57
SANTO DOMINGO	18	64	21	70
STOCKHOLM	-12	10	-5	23
TOKYO	8	47	10	50
TORONTO	-15	7	-9	16
VIENNA	8	47	10	50
ZURICH	8	47	10	50

*For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair.

Tel Aviv: Ben Yehuda St. Tel. 03-5102620
Jerusalem: SO. Africa St. 02-231573
Haifa: 2, Sen Road 04-324650
Beersheva: 38, N. Highway 65 05-352622
Gaza: Ben Gurion Airport 03-9712151

THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy

	Yesterday's Humidity	Yesterday's Min-Max	Today's Min-Max
Jerusalem	73	3-6	9
Golan	54	3-6	9
Haifa	73	12	14
Nahariya	54	3-6	9
Salaf	54	3-6	9
Haifa Port	73	12	14
Tiberias	60	6-15	17
Nazareth	54	3-6	9
Alula	73	12	14
Shomron	73	12	14
Tel Aviv	73	12	14
B-G Airport	73	12	14
Jericho	47	8-12	15
Gaza	48	8-12	15
Beersheva	54	3-6	9
Eilat	26	5-19	20

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The French ambassador to Israel, Alain Pierret, and Mme. Pierret visited the Hebrew University of Jerusalem yesterday and were hosted at a luncheon given by university president Prof. Amnon Pazy.

The new British naval and air attaché, Wing Commander Derek Lewis, called on Haifa Mayor Arye Gurel yesterday to prepare for the visit next month of three ships of the Royal Navy.

Rabbi Pinhas (Paul) Roitman, permanent delegate of the Consistoire de France in Israel, has been appointed an Officer of the Legion of Honour by the French government in appreciation of his communal activity.

The Haifa Rotary Club is to hold a scholarship meeting in the Shulamit Hotel at 1 p.m. today.

Shekem's ads in 'Hayarden' challenged

Post Knesset Correspondent

Why does the Shekem department store chain, controlled by the Defence Ministry, advertise extensively in a Gush Emunim publication that incites against Arabs and Jews alike? Mohammed Miari (Progressive List for Peace) wrote to Defence Minister Rabin yesterday, quoting articles from the last issue of the offending magazine, *Hayarden*.

Among the examples Miari quoted was this paragraph: "Israel's legal system, and its media, are crawling with 'Jew-boys' (*yehudim*). They are Jews according to Halacha, but PLO members for all practical purposes. Another, more tangible definition of a Jew-boy, a *zid* or a *kike*, is a Jew who does the sort of thing to us that Henry Kissinger did."

Miari also quoted *Hayarden's* remark about Vice Premier Shimon Peres, who "weakens the IDF and strengthens Falastin, and who will bring disaster and bereavement upon Israel, beside which the disaster and bereavement of the Yom Kippur war will pale into insignificance."

Miari asked why a state corporation like Shekem should give money to a racist magazine like *Hayarden*.

No Tu Bishvat event in Nablus

By JOEL GREENBERG Jerusalem Post Reporter

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has turned down a request by West Bank settlers to hold a celebration at Joseph's Tomb in Nablus to mark the Tu Bishvat holiday.

The building has been the object of repeated settlement attempts, and currently houses a yeshiva.

Last week yeshiva students fired in the air near the neighbouring Balata refugee camp after their vehicle was hit by stones thrown from the area.

Rabin's spokesman denied that the rejection of the settlers' request was linked to the incident.

Yeshiva student held in attacks on Arabs

A yeshiva student sought by police for the last two months as a suspect in attacks on Arab property in the capital was remanded in custody for three days by the Jerusalem Magistrates' Court yesterday.

Zvi Zucker, a student at the Shuvu Banim yeshiva in the Old City's Muslim Quarter, turned himself in on Sunday. He is suspected of setting Arab stores and cars on fire. (Itim)

HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

Shoshana Miller not returning now Reform converts afraid of notoriety

By HAIM SHAPIRO Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Reform movement is not now planning to bring Shoshana Miller back to Israel simply to pick up her identity card, Rabbi Richard Hirsch, director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, said yesterday.

Hirsch also told *The Jerusalem Post* that other Reform converts are afraid to come forward for fear it will bring notoriety to them and their families. Miller was converted to Judaism by a Reform rabbi in the U.S. before making aliya. She left soon after the High Court of Justice ruled that the Interior Ministry must issue her an ID card listing her nationality as Jewish, and not stating that she is a convert.

Hirsch is still hopeful that Miller will return. She is in the U.S., he said, both because her elderly father is in poor health and because she "went through a very difficult period of great emotional stress." Hirsch was referring to the long legal battle over her status as a Jew here.

He is also hopeful that other Reform converts with whom the movement has been in contact "will now come forward" and take advantage of the fact that the High Court decision has "opened doors" for them as well.

He said there are "dozens" of people who have been rebuffed by the Interior Ministry after seeking to be registered as Jews. But they seek privacy for themselves and their children and so have not made an issue of the matter.

Hirsch said that he has been engaged recently in talks with "enlightened Orthodox rabbis and Israeli religious leaders" who appear willing to "sit down at the table and talk" and reach an understanding on the conversion issue.

Meanwhile, over 150 municipal rabbis and rabbinical court judges have submitted a petition to Acting Interior Minister Ronnie Milo. Justice Minister Avraham Shalom and Religious Affairs Minister Zevulun Hammer on the Miller case. The petitioners protest against the "intervention" of the High Court in ordering the Interior Ministry to register a Reform convert as a Jew, and call on the Interior Ministry not to carry out the court ruling.

A spokesman of the Chief Rabbinate said yesterday that the chief rabbis had no knowledge of the petition.

Asker Wallfish adds:

Mapam MK Yair Tsaban warned yesterday that a number of *dayanim* (rabbinical court judges) are out to declare war on the state's secular judiciary.

Tsaban wrote Religious Affairs Minister Zevulun Hammer, asking him to take disciplinary measures under the civil service regulations against 19 *dayanim* who called on cabinet ministers to ignore the recent High Court ruling in Miller's case.

Israel's won't 'play tricks' over Pretoria

By ASHER WALLFISH Post Knesset Correspondent

Defence Minister Rabin said yesterday that Israel would not "play tricks" (*lehihakem*) with the U.S. over future ties with South Africa.

Rabin told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, in response to comments about legislation in the U.S. Congress to punish countries giving South Africa military support, that "whatever happens Israel has to maintain its credibility with the U.S. and Israel has never played tricks with the U.S."

The defence minister stressed that Israel-South Africa relations are "a very complex issue." He noted that the sanctions to be imposed by the U.S. Congress were harsher than the sanctions advocated by the UN.

In the discussion, Elazar Granot (Mapam) said that the minister ought to explain frankly to the committee

what policy the government planned to conduct vis-a-vis South Africa from now on, in the economic and security spheres.

Yossi Sarid (Citizens Rights Movement) said the government would achieve nothing by "trying to be clever and play tricks," after the congressional legislation took effect in April this year. "We'll have to pay a stiff price if we do that," Sarid warned.

From the opposite end of the political spectrum, Dan Meridor (Likud) said that "vital interests are at stake here and so we have to move with extreme caution." In an obvious reference to the effort by the Foreign Ministry's director-general for political affairs Yosef Belin, to reassess Israeli-South-African relations, Meridor said: "We ought to get some order into our administration." (See analysis page four)

MKs again lose special medical care privileges

By ASHER WALLFISH Post Knesset Correspondent

Knesset members will not be granted special medical care privileges, the House Committee decided unanimously yesterday.

Although the same decision had been taken in December 1985, the privileges were inexplicably restored earlier this month, when the Nebenzahl Committee's recommendations on MK's salaries went into effect.

No explanation was forthcoming as to who had been responsible.

The House Committee also started discussing proposals to withdraw or to restrict the right of MKs to earn additional income as self-employed, above and beyond their parliamentary salaries.

Five members of the House Committee tabled a proposal to ban additional work altogether for MKs. They were Gula Cohen (Tehiya), Chaika Grossman (Mapam), Aharon Nahmias (Alignment), Mordechai Virshupski (Shinui), and Tawfik Toubi (Democratic Front for Peace and Equality).

Committee Chairman Micha Reiser suggested that instead of prohibiting additional work entirely, certain restrictions should be imposed.

Reiser would have MKs who work outside declare their assets, as do MPs at Westminster, and he would bar them from representing clients before any official authority.

Camp resident shot after soldiers' bus is stoned

By JOEL GREENBERG Jerusalem Post Reporter

Soldiers riding a bus near the Balata refugee camp opened fire and wounded a camp resident on Monday after their vehicle was stoned, a military spokesman said yesterday.

The spokesman said preliminary results of a Military Police investigation showed that "the soldiers fired in the air and a camp resident was wounded in the shoulder by the shots." The spokesman confirmed that the soldiers' bus was on the Jerusalem-Nablus highway, which runs above the Balata camp.

The wounded man, Mohammed Abu Assad, 21, said in Nablus Hospital that he did not know where he had been shot from.

Eyewitnesses reported he had been inside the camp when he was hit. Military units stationed near the camp said that none of their soldiers had fired at the time of the incident.

At An-Najah University in Nablus, students yesterday held a rally to mark Fatah Day, the anniversary of the founding of the organization. Fatah Day falls on January 1, but the demonstration had been delayed because of repeated closures of the university this month.

University administrators had promised military authorities that yesterday's demonstration would not spread outside the campus, military sources said.

An-Najah University Professor Saeb Erakat went on trial yesterday in a Nablus military court on charges of possessing inflammatory material, including articles on administrative detention and prison conditions. Also yesterday, Shahrar Abu Aalan of Dahariya village near Hebron was put in administrative detention for six months. He is accused of being a senior activist of the Fatah youth movement, Shabiba.

'Not a drop of water' in town

By ANDY COURT and ELAINE RUTH FLETCHER

The 24,000 residents of Umm al-Fahm in Wadi Ara last night remained without water after the Mekorot company reportedly shut down their water lines a few days ago.

The municipality owes Mekorot some NIS 90,000.

Since last Thursday afternoon, the town has been without water, and residents have had to bring supplies from neighbouring villages or rely on water stored from recent rains, according to Jabrin Hassan, treasurer of the local council.

"There is not a drop of water in all of the town. Aild ay and all night there is no water. They leave people without water and they don't even care if people die," Hassan said.

He said that factories had stopped working and that sick children were not receiving adequate care because of the water cuts.

But Yehzekiel Zakai, Mekorot's director-general, said last night that the water supply had not been cut off completely but merely restricted to certain hours of the day.

The water restrictions have been in effect for only two days, and Umm al-Fahm is receiving treatment not different from other towns.



Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke is delighted with the tiny teddy bear given to him yesterday by Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, who also presented him with a photo album of Jerusalem. (Dan Landau)



Hazel Hawke, wife of the Australian prime minister, plants a sapling from her country yesterday in the Australian section of the Hebrew University botanical garden in Givat Ram. (Yossi Zamir)

Canadian Jews angry over neo-Nazi ruling

By NOMI MORRIS For The Jerusalem Post

TORONTO. - The Canadian Jewish community is outraged at a provincial appeal court decision ordering a new trial for neo-Nazi publisher Ernst Zundel, who was sentenced last year to 15 months' imprisonment for publishing anti-Jewish propaganda.

Zundel, a West German who has lived in Canada since 1958, published a booklet entitled *Did Six Million Really Die?* which called the Holocaust a hoax. In addition to the jail sentence he was prohibited from publishing anything on the subject for three years.

The retrial order of the Ontario Court of Appeal on Friday was based on legal points regarding the original trial judge's counsel to the jury.

The appeal court decision overturning the March 1985 conviction has revived the controversy surrounding Zundel's original prosecution.

At the time, Zundel boasted that although he lost his case he succeeded in winning "millions of dollars of free publicity" for his views.

"One recoils at the possibility of a second trial which would grant the accused a renewed opportunity to stage-manage a circus," said Rose Wolf of the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC).

The CJC did express satisfaction, however, that the five-member appeal court panel upheld the Criminal Code section in terms of which Zundel was charged, rejecting his argument that his constitutional right to freedom of expression had been violated.

The Crown now has three weeks to decide whether to proceed with a new trial, appeal the decision in the Supreme Court or drop the charges altogether.

Unger to get housing post

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN TEL AVIV.

Housing Minister David Levy intends to announce the appointment of Amos Unger as ministry director-general before the cabinet meets on Sunday.

Last week, Levy fired the former director-general, Sasson Shilo, together with three other senior ministry officials, as a result of personal and other conflicts.

Unger, 40, studied social science at the Hebrew University of Jeru-

salem. He has served as construction supervisor in the Jerusalem Municipality; Jerusalem district manager of the Rassco housing company; and director of the Company for the Reconstruction of the Jewish Quarter of the Old City.

Levy is also expected to announce the appointment of Nissim Abuloff as board chairman of the ministry's housing company, Shikun U'fituach, and Ron Steinitz as the company's director-general.

Herut to convene on March 30 with or without agenda

By SARAH HONIG Post Political Correspondent

TEL AVIV. - The second session of Herut's aborted convention is scheduled to convene on March 30. This was decided yesterday by Labour and Social Affairs Minister Moshe Katsav, who was elected chairman of the presidium at the convention last March that broke up in turmoil.

Katsav said yesterday that he will call the convention into session on March 30th whether there is an agenda or not. If no agenda can be put together, the likelihood is that a confrontation will result, which could lead to a replay of last year's rowdy scenes.

So far, all attempts to get the warring factions to agree even to a minimal agenda have failed. But Katsav argued that he "will not be frightened off by threats of confrontation. If there is no agreement, then the showdown will have to take place on the convention floor, though we hope it will be conducted in a more seemly manner than last time," he told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Katsav will today chair a meeting of the 70 presidium members, whom he has summoned for the first time

since last March. The presidium will be entrusted with the task the faction chiefs have so far been unable to tackle - coming up with an agenda.

The presidium membership last year was evenly divided between the Shamir-Arenis side and the Levy-Sharon supporters. Since then, however, David Levy and Ariel Sharon have broken off their alliance. The Levy camp now believes that the combined forces of Sharon and Yitzhak Shamir may be able to achieve a majority on the presidium.

Levy told *The Post* that this is the main reason why Katsav, as a representative of the Shamir side, is now so eager for the convention to be called back into session. Levy himself, who has been agitating for a second session all along, cannot now oppose it, but he says he will free to propose an agenda of his own.

On the Shamir side, it is thought that the prime minister will attract delegate support due to the prestige of his office, the manner in which the Shin Bet affair was concluded, and the positive impression expected to be created by Shamir's trip to the U.S. next month.

Zimmet's visit to Vanunu is on-again, off-again

By MENACHEM SHALEV Jerusalem Post Reporter

Judy Zimmet's much-publicized visit to her boyfriend Mordechai Vanunu was on-again off-again yesterday, after the former Dimona nuclear technician decided at the last minute to reject the "security safeguards" demanded by the authorities.

While Zimmet waited in the prison warden's office, Vanunu's attorney Amnon Zichroni shuttled back and forth in effort to reach a compromise. Vanunu could not be persuaded to agree to a meeting that would have entailed seeing his girlfriend through a soundproof glass partition and communicating with her through notes checked first by the authorities. He also decided to continue with his hunger strike, now entering its 25th day.

The original approval of Zimmet's visit was revoked after Vanunu flashed a message to reporters on December 21st. Since Zimmet arrived here on January 15th, Zichroni has been trying to work out a formula to allow the security authorities to allow Zimmet to visit Vanunu and allow the two to talk over the telephone.

by Vanunu's family have not been affected by such constraints.

Zimmet told *The Jerusalem Post* last night that, although she was upset the meeting didn't take place, she "understands" Vanunu's decision. She said she too was "disappointed with the arrangements."

Zimmet said that Vanunu had managed to get a quarter-page letter to her while she was waiting for the meeting. "He said that he loved me and that I should be strong," she said. "He wrote of other personal things which we very much need to discuss."

At one point yesterday, Zichroni had persuaded Vanunu to agree to one-way communication, whereby Zimmet would be allowed to speak to him freely and he would respond with notes that would be censored. But the authorities did not relent.

Zichroni will now press on with Vanunu's "prisoner's petition," which is scheduled to be heard tomorrow in open court by Jerusalem District Court Judge Zvi Cohen. The petition asks that the court order the prison authorities to allow Zimmet to visit Vanunu and allow the two to talk over the telephone.

Remand issued in Safad painting forgery case

By YORAM GAZIT For The Jerusalem Post

TEL AVIV. - The son of a Safad gallery owner, suspected of belonging to a ring which forged the paintings of the late artist Shalom Moscovitz (the Ziegmacher), was yesterday remanded in the Tel Aviv Magistrates' Court for a further eight days.

Police requested that the court release a second subject on bail because of his advanced age, and that the decision on the gallery owner's remand be postponed because he suffered a heart attack yesterday on his way to court.

Reuven Sadeh, 29, a former Safad policeman, was behind the intricate network that had forged the paintings of well-known artists, police told the court. They said Sadeh had employed other people, including artists, and had used the services of printing houses in various parts of the country.

The painter Haim Sabitzki, 80, of Ramat Gan, who was released on bail yesterday, is also suspected of belonging to the ring.

Police estimate the value of the paintings allegedly forged by the Yehudit Gallery owners at hundreds of thousands of dollars. Among the alleged forgeries confiscated were works by the Ziegmacher, and by another Safad artist, Ben-Avraham.

The forged paintings were sold mainly to tourists, a police representative told the court.

Some of the cheques received for the paintings were also forged by the gallery owners to earn more money, police claimed.

Sadeh, who represented himself in court, denied that he had forged any paintings and claimed that he was granted the rights to sell the Ziegmacher paintings. He added that he had won a suit over those rights in the Tel Aviv District Court.

However, another dealer, Daniel Doron, yesterday told *The Jerusalem Post* that he was "the only one" who had the rights to sell the Ziegmacher paintings.

Sadeh added that he had also been granted the right to do whatever he wished with Ben-Avraham's paintings. The man who testified against him was "not the real Ben-Avraham," Sadeh claimed.

"The person you questioned was Edward Philip, and the real Ben-Avraham is living in Safad and has never been questioned," Sadeh told the court.

The judge ordered the police to check Sadeh's claims and to release him before the eight-day remand expired if his arguments were corroborated.

Restaurateur's killer gets 13 years in jail

The man who killed the owner of the Hadara restaurant in Jerusalem

five months ago was yesterday sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment by the Jerusalem District Court.

Adnan Shalida, 22, of Kfar Sa'ir near Hebron, pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the killing of David Nehemia, his boss at the popular

restaurant in the Romema quarter.

On August 8, Nehemia informed the former kitchen-hand that he had been fired. Shalida claimed that a fight ensued and that he had stabbed Nehemia in self-defence.

The judges accepted his claim that the murder was not premeditated. (Itim)

To Mrs. Lilian Ben-Zion and the Weinman, Koch and Ankori Families
Our sincerest condolences on the passing of

The Artist BEN-ZION

a devoted friend of the National Maritime Museum in Haifa.

David Plonsky General Director, The Haifa Museum

Dr. Joseph Ringel Director, The National Maritime Museum

and all the members of the staffs

To Tony Ross
Deepest condolences on the death of your

Father

Peltransport Ltd.

Members and Staff of the Caesarea Golf Club extend their sincere condolences to the family and the Bahai Community, on the loss of our dedicated member

CHARLES WOLCOTT

The Board of Directors of
Ampal - American Israel Corporation
its Officers and Staff

mourn the tragic passing of their fellow director and colleague of over forty years and a founder of the corporation

MORRIS LIEBERMAN

of Detroit, Michigan

and extend their heartfelt condolences to the family

דוד: זמן האל

One rebel killed, 300 arrested

Aquino crushes dawn coup attempt, but rebels still hold television station

MANILA. — President Corazon Aquino yesterday crushed a dawn rebellion by 400 troops loyal to her ousted predecessor, but 100 military dissidents were still holding out in a television station, refusing to surrender.

Late last night, after negotiations with a general, the rebel soldiers freed all civilian hostages, estimated at up to 50 station employees, whom they had been holding since they took over the Channel 7 broadcast compound at dawn. Electricity had been cut off to the station.

Earlier, Aquino sent 1,000 soldiers to the compound and by last night they swept the area clear of bystanders, pushing them back with shields marked with the slogan: "We are all Filipinos."

Aquino aides said the clearing operation could be a prelude for an assault.

Deputy Armed Forces Chief Eduardo Ermita left Channel 7 after three hours of negotiations with Colonel Oscar Canlas, leader of the rebel group.

Presidential aide Teodoro Locsin told reporters that all Ermita could offer the rebels was a chance to surrender peacefully. They would be punished, he said.

Presidential executive secretary Joker Arroyo told reporters: "The government is in control of the military. The problem is that the military has no control over itself."

The Philippines' most influential church leader, Cardinal Jaime Sin, said in a televised address he was praying that the rebellion could be resolved "with the strength and firmness the crisis demands."

In Washington, the White House issued a ringing endorsement of President Aquino. Spokesman Larry Speakes told reporters that the U.S. believes she and her government offered the best opportunity for the reform of the country's political structure and the revitalization of its economy.

Aquino, in a televised address earlier, said that "misguided military personnel" had targeted key installations, including four military bases, but that the situation was "well in hand," and most leaders of the uprising had been captured.

Armed forces chief Fidel Ramos said one rebel was killed, 16 were wounded and 52 captured in clashes at air force headquarters at Villamor airport near Manila airport.

Police said seven people were hurt in clashes between rival

groups of Aquino and Marcos supporters surrounding the television station.

Justice Minister Neptali Gonzales said that "one general and some colonels" were among 18 officers identified as leaders of the rebellion.

The rebels attacked the Sangley Point navy facility south of Manila and planned to hit the armed forces and defence ministry headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo and army headquarters at Fort Bonifacio.

Military spokesmen said 38 soldiers from Fort Magsaysay, north of Manila, were intercepted by security forces on the way to the capital. About 100 other soldiers from the same fort were captured trying to enter Camp Aguinaldo, they added.

Yesterday's revolt was the most serious attempt against Aquino's government, which has been plagued by coups and rumours of coups during its 11 months of power.

Last November the government announced it had thwarted a coup against Aquino by officers linked to then-defence minister Juan Ponce Enrile, who was fired although he denied any knowledge of a coup plot. (Reuters, AFP)



Riot police drag away a girl student during demonstration at Seoul's Yonsei University yesterday. Three hundred students clashed with Korean riot police, as protests against the death of dissident student continued. (AFP)

Reagan 'can't recall' okay of arms shipments to Iran

WASHINGTON. — President Reagan has told a congressional committee he "did not recall" authorizing Iran in 1985 to sell U.S. arms to Iran, the Washington Post reported on Tuesday, quoting informed sources.

Reagan, testifying for the first time on Monday to the committee investigating the Irangate scandal, also reiterated that arms sales to Iran were intended to improve relations with Tehran, and not to purchase the release of hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

The White House issued a statement Monday saying Reagan had replied to all questions and had suggested a second meeting with the three-man team, chaired by former Republican senator John Tower.

Sources close to the Tower committee said the president did not appear to have a "highly detailed recollection" of the sequence of the Iran arms operation.

One source quoted by The Post said that as well as "forgetting" about the Iran link, Reagan had no recollection that on January 17 last year he had signed a "finding" — a secret presidential order — authorizing arms sales to Iran.

In an earlier hearing, former national security adviser Robert McFarlane said Reagan had given him verbal approval of indirect shipment of arms to Iran via Israel in August and September 1985.

In another development, Secretary of State George Shultz yesterday

ruled out any further U.S. arms sales to Iran.

Shultz said Iran directly threatened U.S. interests through its pursuit of war with Iraq and its sponsorship of terrorism.

He told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the secret arms deal with Iran was a "signal" intended to improve relations with Tehran, but did not work.

He played down the Iran arms affair as only "a limited exception" to U.S. policy against selling arms to Iran.

"There will be no further exceptions — no more transfers of U.S. origin military equipment to Iran either directly or through any third party," Shultz said. (AFP, Reuters)

Nakash pal sentenced for killing

By MICHEL ZLOTOWSKI

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

PARIS. — Charles Mimi, 24, the second accomplice of William Nakash in the murder of Abdellah Hakkar in 1983 in Besancon, was sentenced to 12 years in prison by the criminal court of Besancon on Monday.

The prosecutor, Christian Riss, said he regretted the absence of William Nakash, saying that justice in this case had been split like a salami, since the court was sitting for the second and perhaps not the last time to hear about the killing of the 19-year-old Algerian.

Mimi confirmed his participation in the shooting: "Our aim was only to frighten the victim," he said. "Nakash shot at him, then he looked at me. I had never seen him like that; I feared for my own safety. I pulled the trigger four or five times."

This account was heard in almost the same words over two years ago, in the same court. It was given by the third man in Nakash's team, Hassan Hamoudi, 26, who is currently serving a 14-year sentence for his part in Hakkar's murder.

Soon after the killing, Mimi fled to the U.S. He was arrested in Florida and extradited to France in June 1985.

Nothing conclusive emerged from this trial except the fact that out of the eight bullets pumped into Hakkar, only one was deadly; the last one, the coup de grace, in the head, shot from a 9mm revolver at point blank.

It is known that Nakash opened fire on Hakkar with a submachine gun. But who "finished the job"? The Mimi trial established that none of Nakash's accomplices had ever seen Hakkar before the night of the murder, and that the weapons were brought by Nakash.

Attorney Raymond Forni, representing the brothers and sisters of the victim, sharply criticized the attitude of Israeli Justice Minister Avraham Shari, for his refusal to extradite Nakash. Forni said that the death of Hakkar was not an accident, but "the result of a contract carried out by hoodlums, ordered by well-known Besancon gangsters."

Concerning the two cases of Israelis who died in French jails, raised by Nakash's lawyer, The Jerusalem Post has learned that Moshe Vidal was kept at his own request in a cell by himself in Rouen, where he was transferred after he had repeatedly tried to mutilate himself. On the night of September 18, 1983, three days before his release, he set his mattress on fire and suffocated to death.

The other Israeli, Victor Ben Naim, hanged himself in his cell in the Fresnes jail near Paris on December 17, 1982. His body was found at 5 p.m. Mandatory post-mortems confirmed the suicides in both cases.

Both sides claim ground gains

Iran claims Iraqi resumption of air raids, four cities bombed

NICOSIA (Reuters). — Iran said Iraqi jets bombed four Iranian cities yesterday, killing and wounding a number of civilians, hours after Tehran announced it had stopped shelling Iraqi cities because Baghdad had discontinued raids on Iranian civilian targets.

Tehran Radio quoted a war spokesman as saying Iran would retaliate for the new raids with the utmost force.

The radio said one of the cities attacked was Khomeneh, the hometown of Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini 260 km. southwest of Tehran. It was the first time it had been hit in the 6½-year-old war.

The Iraqi news agency (Ina) reported new and "devastating" air raids on the Iranian towns of Ilam.

Dehloran and Shahabad (Eslamabad-e Gharb). Other cities that came under air attack were Oom, Isfahan and Pol-e-Dokhtar, it said.

Ina quoted Information Minister Latif Nassif al-Jassem as saying Iraq would only reconsider its policy of attacking Iranian towns and cities under an agreement guaranteed by an international body.

A military communique read on Tehran Radio earlier yesterday said Iranian troops advanced 2 km. along a road running from the border village of Shalameh to the southern Iraqi port of Basra.

Four Iraqi battalions were knocked out in heavy overnight fighting, it said.

But Iraq last night reported an Iranian Revolutionary Guards divi-

sion wiped out in a 14-hour battle east of southern port of Basra. A military spokesman said the Iranians launched two attacks between 9 p.m. and midnight Monday against Iraqi troops defending territory south of the Fish Lake, 10 km. south-east of Basra.

He said large numbers of the attacking force were wiped out and "the enemy was forced to retreat leaving behind their dead..." Five Iranian battalions and a brigade "were annihilated," he said.

Iranians attacked again within two hours and fighting raged until close to midnight, ending in annihilation of five Iranian battalions and a brigade, he said.

Iraqi forces recovered more than 500 metres of territory as the Iranians retreated, Ina reported.

Arms sale link probed in admiral's death

By CHRIS MOSEY

STOCKHOLM. — Admiral Carl Almqvist, head of the War Materials Inspectorate, which vets all Swedish arms deals, fell to his death in front of an underground train from a crowded platform at Stockholm central station on January 15.

At first the incident was dismissed as an accident. Then came a rash of reports that Almqvist had been pushed.

Police are now seeking witnesses and have started a full-scale investigation into the death that could have far-reaching effects on Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson's Social Democratic government.

One theory is that Almqvist, 61, was murdered to prevent him revealing all he knew on the sale of arms and explosives to Iran by Bofors, the Swedish munitions company.

These sales, strictly illegal under legislation forbidding the sale of arms to areas of conflict, were disclosed by the Peace and Arbitration Committee, Sweden's equivalent of Britain's Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

There have been persistent rumours in Swedish diplomatic circles that a member of the Social Democratic party elite told Almqvist to "turn a blind eye" to the sales, worth millions of kroner to an industry otherwise in decline.

Almqvist was due to give evidence to a police team investigating the arms deal. "He was a key figure in the investigation. It will be far more difficult to get to the truth with him dead," said a spokesman for the Swedish Customs Police, who are investigating the Bofors affair.

However, another theory being looked into by police is that Almqvist committed suicide, fearing that his own role in failing to halt the arms sales would become known.

The sales were arranged via letterbox companies in countries with whom Bofors is allowed to trade. Supt. Rolf Nilsson, in charge of investigating Almqvist's death, said: "It is vital that we establish whether this was an accident or not. He knew more than anyone else about the Bofors deals."

Press speculation concerning the death is increasing daily in Stockholm, with the murder theory holding most favour. The fact remains, however, that hurling oneself under oncoming underground trains is a common method of suicide in Stockholm.

Customs Police Supt. Torbjorn Sebell has admitted that the final report on the Bofors affair is likely to be highly critical of Almqvist and the War Materials Inspectorate, which allowed a number of other sales via letterbox companies in recent years, primarily to the Middle East, another forbidden area for Swedish munitions exporters.

Poles deny woman's bid to emigrate

By WLADIMIR STRUMINSKI

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

BONN. — The Polish Interior Ministry has denied an emigration permit to Israel to a Jewish woman in Warsaw, in the first case of a refusal since official relations between Israel and Poland were re-established last year.

Henryka (Hna) Zachariasz, a clinical psychologist, was refused the permit on three occasions by the Polish authorities.

Zachariasz, born in 1946, has some 40 relatives in Israel. She lives in Warsaw with her 79-year-old mother, whom she would like to join her in Israel.

In a telephone conversation from Warsaw, she told The Jerusalem Post yesterday: "I want to join my family, to live in the Jewish state and to share in its life." She has visited Israel three times, in 1949 as a small child, in 1956 and in 1964.

Zachariasz first submitted her emigration request on April 8, 1986. On May 5 she was notified that her request had been turned down — without any explanation.

Later that month she appealed the decision and on August 19 was handed down another refusal, signed by the director of the passports department at the Interior Ministry in Warsaw.

She then appealed directly to the interior minister, a step provided for by the Polish regulations on November 12. On December 10, she again received a negative answer.

Zachariasz is now considering a petition to the Polish parliament. She says she has no specific knowledge of other Jewish refugees in Poland. Most of Poland's Jewish population left the country in earlier periods, and only very few have remained there.

Syria diplomat accused in Turkish smuggling

ANKARA (Reuters). — Syria's military attaché in Ankara, Mohammed Khair Azkour, will face trial in connection with a conspiracy to smuggle explosives through Turkey into Syria, Turkey's chief prosecutor

Nusret Demiral said yesterday.

Azkour, reported to have left Turkey last week, is one of the four people accused of bringing arms and ammunition from Iraq into Turkey and smuggling them out to Syria.

The other Israeli, Victor Ben Naim, hanged himself in his cell in the Fresnes jail near Paris on December 17, 1982. His body was found at 5 p.m. Mandatory post-mortems confirmed the suicides in both cases.

Concerning the two cases of Israelis who died in French jails, raised by Nakash's lawyer, The Jerusalem Post has learned that Moshe Vidal was kept at his own request in a cell by himself in Rouen, where he was transferred after he had repeatedly tried to mutilate himself. On the night of September 18, 1983, three days before his release, he set his mattress on fire and suffocated to death.

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Kreisky 'stopped' Israel arms shipment to Iran

VIENNA (AFP). — Israel tried to ship U.S. arms to Iran through Austria at the beginning of the Gulf war, former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky has alleged.

In a speech to the International Association of Political Science for the UN (IAPS), published here yesterday, Kreisky said the shipment did not materialize because he per-

sonally opposed it.

According to Kreisky, who was then chancellor, this attempt to sell arms to Iran would not have been possible without the tacit agreement of "highest authorities" in the U.S.

In his speech, Mr. Kreisky also blamed the big powers for not trying to "restrain" Iran and Iraq.

Atallah, Jordan's ex-foreign minister dies

AMMAN (Reuters). — Former Jordanian Foreign Minister Anton Atallah died in Amman yesterday aged 89, his family said.

Syria diplomat accused in Turkish smuggling

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Peking shakeup triggers Hongkong jitters

By STEVE VINES

HONGKONG. — People in this British colony like stability, but they know only too well that they are going to be under the control of the Chinese government within 10 years.

The Sino-British agreement on the handover of Hongkong to China in 1997 is a vague document which leaves a great deal of scope for interpretation by the new rulers. If the leadership in Peking appears to be returning to the old days of attacking "bourgeois liberalism," people in Hongkong realize that it's bad news for them.

Fears of the implications of the forced resignation of Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang were such that Hongkong's stockmarket suffered its biggest one-day fall for 19 months. Financial pundits were quick to identify other factors accounting for the slump, but no one was denying the trigger effect of the Hu resignation.

Legislative council member Martin Lee, one of the territory's most articulate spokesmen for political change, said: "Hongkong people are surely worried. China had been adopting an open-door policy in recent years which somewhat narrowed the differences between the two societies, with [China's] implementation of the 'Four Modernizations'."

He urged that the changes in Peking should stimulate efforts to create a democratic system in Hongkong so that the new rulers would find in place a working democracy which would be hard to demolish.

Although there has been some sympathy in the colony for the student protests which preceded the Hu resignation, Hongkong people are not prone to sticking their necks out, neither in support of reformers on the mainland nor of those like Lee who advocate reform at home.

Because most people do not engage in active politics, there is a

tendency for instruments such as the stockmarket to become the most reliable indicator of popular sentiment. In the absence of a normal democracy which allows for structured discussion, responses in the colony tend to be panicky.

Local newspapers did their best to calm fears, one prominent Chinese-language daily assuring its readers that as long as Deng Xiaoping remained in charge, there was little to worry about.

The establishment South China Morning Post was stern in its criticism of those expressing concern about the effect of the turmoil in Peking: "Rumours take on a life of their own in our fragile little city and if enough people listen to them and take money out of Hongkong shares and put it into Norwegian smoked herring futures, we will have a crash before you can say aquavit!" the newspaper warned.

Sure enough the mood of panic soon subsided and the stock ex-

change went shooting up again, but few doubt that the 10-year transition period will be marked by similar turbulence. No one likes to think, for example, what will be the impact of the death of the ageing Deng.

The problem, according to one of Hongkong's political reformers, is "powerlessness, our people don't feel they can influence anything and so they get their heads down and set about making money which they see as the only sure guarantee of survival."

The New China news agency, which represents the mainland's interests in Hongkong, assured people in the territory that they would not be adversely affected by political changes in Peking. However, its director, Xu Jiatun also warned that some people in China had gone too far down the road of "bourgeois liberalism."

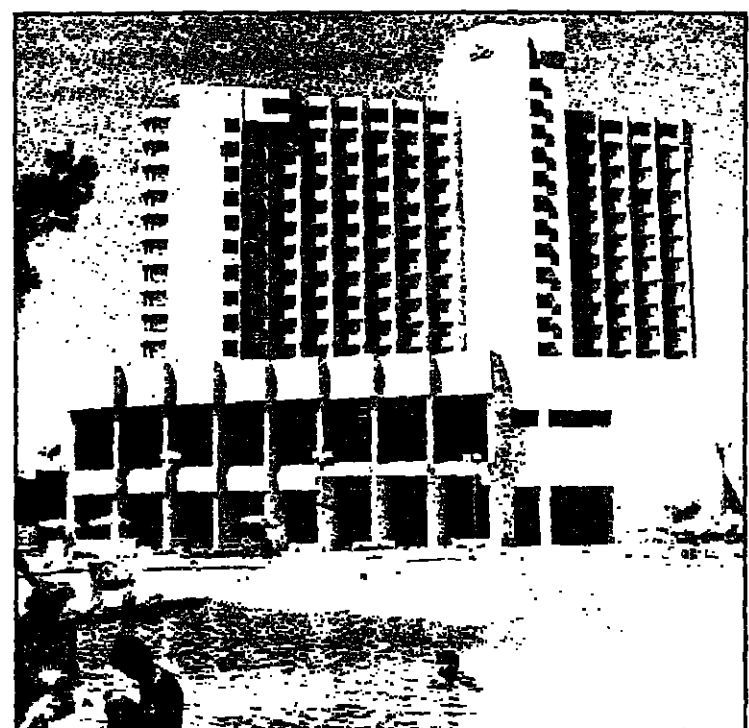
There are, unfortunately for them, an awful lot of so-called bourgeois liberals in Hongkong. (London Observer Service)

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Decision of 'prime ministers' forum' Israel to keep status quo with SA

Israel has decided, for the time being, to maintain the status quo in its relations with South Africa.

This was the thrust and upshot of the consultation of the "prime ministers' forum" (Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Defence Minister Moshe Arens) a fortnight ago, prompted by the imposition of limited economic sanctions on South Africa by the EEC member states and the U.S. It was also prompted by last September's U.S. congressional resolution requiring President Reagan to report to Congress by April on the arms sales relationships between South Africa and states receiving U.S. military aid.

The resolution implied that Congress would move to cut U.S. aid to states selling arms or military technology to South Africa.

According to foreign press reports, Israel during the past 15 years has sold South Africa military equipment (light weapons, communications and electronic equipment) and the license to produce several major weapons systems, including Sa'ar-class missile boats, the Gabriel sea-to-sea missile and major components of the Kfir fighter-bomber.

But it is unclear to what extent the congressional resolution covers the sale to South Africa of technological know-how and "semi-military" equipment (communications sets) as distinct from weaponry. Nor is it clear how the Reagan report or Congress will regard this, nor how detailed in this respect will be Reagan's report of the end of March.

Israel reportedly earns a great deal of money from these arms and technology exports, and the livelihood of thousands of Israeli workers to some degree depends on this on-going relationship with Pretoria.

There is a certain weight of custom and tradition to the relationship and, besides, Israeli leaders have traditionally been loath to apply sanctions, due to Israel's experience with the Arab boycott.

Lastly, though to a lesser extent, Israel's leaders must take account of

the possible effects of such sanctions on South Africa's 120,000-strong Jewish community. Sanctions would probably be unpopular among many if not most South African Jews, and might alienate the potential immigrants among them. And they might generate anti-Semitism among white South African non-Jews.

ANALYSIS BENNY MORRIS

These were the main arguments presented at the meeting of the "prime ministers' forum" for leaving the relationship intact and for waiting to see what the Reagan report will say and what Congress might be inclined to do. If the report names Israel as a country selling arms to South Africa and if it provides details, then Israeli decision-makers could consider the matter afresh. This line of reasoning was advanced primarily by Rabin.

It was probably a reassurance to South Africa's leaders in his recent secret trip to Pretoria, reported in the latest issue of *Newsweek*. Rabin may also have told Pretoria that because of the international context, Israel would henceforth maintain a very "low profile" in its dealings with South Africa, and Pretoria would be well advised to follow suit in its relations with Israel.

The "prime ministers' forum" will probably hold a further discussion on the sanctions questions in late February, after Shamir's return from his visit to Washington. Shamir will presumably then arrive with updated information about the attitude of Congress and the administration to Israel's relations with South Africa and about what can be expected in the Reagan report. Until then, nothing will be decided in Jerusalem.

This position has been contested by the Foreign Minister's director-

general for political affairs, Yossi Beilin, who believes Israel should reduce its exposure to South Africa. A leading figure in the left wing of the Labour Party, Beilin had hopes that with Peres's backing he might persuade the decision makers to agree to minor economic and cultural sanctions on the West European model. (When Peres was prime minister he said that Israel would not "lag behind" the West in imposing sanctions on Pretoria.)

However, at the "forum" meeting, Peres accepted the view that in the non-military as well as military spheres, Israel should, for the present, not change its policies.

Off his own bat Beilin over the past few weeks has "cautioned" Israeli local authorities and sports organizations to reduce or halt relations with Pretoria and to desist from visits to South Africa.

He has chaired a ministry team that produced a position paper recommending that Israel follow the West's lead in imposing limited sanctions.

After returning from a visit to the U.S. recently, he spread the message that "leading congressmen and senators" are concerned about Israel's non-application of sanctions against South Africa—a "message" that the three senior ministers have not found completely convincing. He also attempted to organize a "colloquium" of ministry and extra-ministry experts to discuss "the future of South Africa."

No doubt he expected the statements made at the gathering to filter out to the media, whose reporting would also constitute pressure on the political decision-makers to decide.

Other ministry officials and the former director-general, David Kimche, periodically speak of the damage done to Israel's relations with black Africa by the continued Israeli-South African connection. But the triumph has noted that many black African states continue to maintain de facto economic relations with Pretoria; that Israel's rela-

tions with South Africa did not deter several black African states recently from re-establishing relations with Israel; and that it was not the Jerusalem-Pretoria connection that was responsible for the continued absence of ties between Israel and the other black African states.

Mr. Rabin and, more guardedly, Shamir, have now, somewhat belatedly, taken note of Beilin's campaign to push them into making a decision they oppose. They are supported in this matter by Minister without Portfolio Ezer Weizman, a former defence minister and member of the inner cabinet, who instructed Beilin to cancel the "colloquium" he had planned.

The poor personal relations between Beilin and Weizman, who otherwise share a strong dovish political outlook on Israeli-Arab relations, mean that Beilin enjoys the support of no senior cabinet minister in his efforts to have Israel impose sanctions on South Africa. Similarly, the strained relations between Beilin and the Foreign Ministry's other director-general, Avraham Tamir, Weizman's Yahad Party protégé, has meant that Tamir has offered Beilin little succor regarding South Africa.

Rabin is now expected to attempt to persuade Peres to rein in Beilin. Peres, who instinctively gives security considerations primacy when the chips are down—will probably try to do so. Peres will not want to do this too openly, however, as he has his liberal image inside and outside the party to consider.

Beilin, a clever tactician, must take care not to damage his relations with Peres, his political patron. He may back off, at least for a while. Or he may decide to continue his South African pinpricks in the hope that eventually he can force the hand of the decision makers.

More important, if the U.S. were to decide to press Israel hard on the issue, the government would find it difficult to defend and pursue its "no-sanctions" policy.

Cabinet to hear proposals on complete equality for Druse

By ELAINE RUTH FLETCHER

For The Jerusalem Post

A "new deal" for Israel's Druse community, designed to equalize access to jobs, education, housing and municipal funding, is to be brought before the cabinet on Sunday by Minister Moshe Arens.

"The intention is to create complete equality [with Jews] in all spheres," said one source close to Arens, the minister in charge of minority affairs.

Sources described the proposals as unprecedented in their scope. They deal with sensitive issues such as employment in security-related industries, and with the low level of funding for Druse local authorities—a long-standing cause of anger in the Druse community.

Arens, after taking responsibility for minority affairs last year, said he wanted to make Druse "affirmative action" one of his first priorities.

"Given the contribution they have made, they have not had a square deal," the Likud minister said then. But Arens's current initiative actually follows a campaign this month by Druse MK Amal Nasser

a-Din (Likud) to press for government approval of his own 11-point plan to equalize Druse status. The MK's plan included granting Druse villages budget and tax breaks equal to those in Jewish development towns.

Arens said Monday that his proposals contain a similar "formula" designed to grant Druse villages the same benefits as Jewish towns and development towns.

Arens said his proposals would grant Druse soldiers who have completed their compulsory army service "total equality" with Jewish soldiers in rights and benefits.

The proposals also deal with equalizing aid offered to Druse and Jewish university students and opening up more government offices to Druse employment.

Arens put together his package of proposals for Prime Minister Shimon Peres, following a government discussion on Nasser a-Din's proposals two weeks ago.

Nasser a-Din said that the special tax breaks granted to development towns often meant that a Jewish IDF veteran working next to a Druse

veteran in the same factory may get 10 per cent less in income tax.

"That's because the Druse is not from a development town, and the Jewish employee is," Nasser a-Din said.

Likewise, land in the Druse village of Peki'in is twice the price of developed land in the Jewish development town of New Peki'in, 10 kilometres away, due to government price subsidies, Nasser a-Din said.

A Druse local council only receives an average of NIS 2.5 per resident a year for its development budget, he said, while a comparable Jewish community receives NIS 2.5 per person—and even more if the Jewish town has development town status.

"The two of us, Jew and Druse, go to the army together," Nasser a-Din said. "But his village, because it is Jewish, receives the designation of development town, and the Druse village stays as it is."

Nasser a-Din demonstrated on January 11 in front of the prime minister's house, after the cabinet failed to place his proposals for equalization, already debated in the Knesset, on its agenda that week.

Non-lethal riot control urged for West Bank

By JOEL GREENBERG

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The government should give the "highest priority" to developing non-lethal riot control techniques in the West Bank, and make every effort to avoid fatalities when its troops break up demonstrations, Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein believes.

During a tour this week of the West Bank, Rubinstein said that he had raised the riot control issue recently in the cabinet, and that since then he had "seen a change" in the way the army dealt with demonstrators.

"Every effort should be made to avoid using live ammunition while breaking up demonstrations, even if they are violent," he said. "In this Israel is no different from other Western countries which have found ways to deal with similar demonstrations without having recourse to such an extreme measure as opening fire on demonstrators, particularly youths."

Rubinstein added that "Israel, with its talent for invention and its military capability, can adopt methods and obtain equipment" for non-lethal riot control. "Opening fire should be absolutely the last resort," he said.

"We must maintain law and order without loss of life. I'm not blaming the soldiers in the field. I'm talking about a policy that provides an alternative to opening fire: recruiting special riot-control units, using rubber bullets, shields and water cannon. The issue is of vital importance."

In a meeting with Civil Administration head Ephraim Sneh at Beit El, Rubinstein said his ministry would redouble efforts to improve services in the territories, following bureaucratic delays in establishing a separate phone company in the area.

He said his ministry planned to open new telephone exchanges in Tulkarm and Jenin, link more villages to central exchanges in neighbouring cities, expand the number of phone lines and install more telephones, and provide full telex and direct dialling services to all parts of the West Bank.

Exposed to gamma rays

'New technique for preserving food'

By ANDY COURT

For The Jerusalem Post

Agricultural scientists are renewing their efforts to preserve food by exposing it to radiation. They face a dual task: first, to make sure the new method works, and then to persuade consumers that the food is safe to eat.

The new technique involves exposing fruits, vegetables and meats to gamma rays. The rays slow down the ageing process of the food tissues and suppress the development of fungi and bacteria that cause foods to rot.

Unlike the radiation that contaminated agricultural products in areas downwind of the Chernobyl nuclear reactor, this radiation poses no danger, according to Yair Aharoni, head of the Volcani Institute's department of fruit and vegetable storage.

"First of all, we're using a different kind of radiation," he said. "The rays don't leave any irradiated residues on the food. It's clean and safe. It's better than the food we now eat, which has been sprayed with chemicals that are not all that good for our health."

The advantages of the radiation process include prolonging the time that produce can remain in the supermarket, and possibly reducing refrigeration costs. But the most important advantage is that it provides one of the few practical ways of killing certain bacteria and insects without using harmful chemical agents.

Both the U.S. and Japan are expected soon to ban the use of a chemical that Israel now uses to kill Mediterranean fruit flies in the fruit it exports to those countries.

The radiation that kills the fruit fly can also be used to kill disease-causing organisms in the food that dairy and poultry farmers give their animals. Gamma rays work against salmonella, which is sometimes found in chicken feed.

Israelis have been researching the use of radiation to preserve food for more than two decades, but efforts are now being intensified because of increasing interest worldwide,

according to Deputy Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-Oz.

"We heard that in Japan, Australia, and the U.S. they have begun some very big projects," Katz-Oz told *The Jerusalem Post*. "In Israel, we have been working in the field for more than 25 years and haven't succeeded much, mainly because of the legislation of the countries to whom we export."

Katz-Oz says he wants to allocate \$1 million of the Agriculture Ministry's budget towards building an experimental station to radiate food at the Volcani Institute. Until now, Volcani researchers have been using equipment at the Centre for Atomic Research at Nahal Soreq, which can handle only limited quantities of produce.

It's not clear how economical this new method will be. The process requires an expensive, thick-walled building and automated equipment that would convey the food into a chamber where it would be exposed to gamma rays.

However, the cobalt isotope needed to produce gamma rays is readily available from the Dimona nuclear reactor, Katz-Oz said.

But the technical and economic issues are only part of the story. Katz-Oz and Aharoni agree that the public has a strong fear of all things radioactive, and that will have to change if the project is to succeed.

"The man in the street doesn't distinguish between the kind of radiation we're using and the kind of radiation he's heard about at Chernobyl," Aharoni said. "But with proper education the public can be taught not to fear food that is treated with gamma rays."

Monkeys on the loose

PETAH TIKVA (Itim). — Two monkeys were stolen from the zoo here yesterday and others ran loose after thieves sawed through the bars of their cage.

The town veterinarian, Dr. Yitzhak Neuman, said that monkeys and parrots had been stolen from the zoo in the past, probably to be sold. A monkey fetches about \$500.

18,000 Israelis to get amnesty

By TOM TUGEND

Jerusalem Post Correspondent
LOS ANGELES. — An estimated 18,000 Israelis living illegally in the U.S. will be eligible for amnesty under a new federal immigration law that goes into effect May 5.

In general terms, aliens who entered the country without valid documentation before January 1, 1982, will be "forgiven" and allowed to apply for legal residence.

The number of Israelis, based on data from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, was cited Monday in a *Los Angeles Times* article, which also noted that the Hebrew-language weekly *Israel She-lanu*, published in New York, is carrying an increasing number of ads by immigration lawyers dealing with amnesty.

A total of 3.9 million "illegals" are believed to be eligible for amnesty. More than 75 per cent are from Latin America.



The head of the Judea and Samaria Civil Administration, Ephraim Sneh, visits Hadra Ali Madiya yesterday, who is recovering from the first open-heart operation in the West Bank. The surgery was performed this week by a team of Arab doctors at the new open-heart unit in the Ramallah government hospital. About 50 similar operations are planned for the coming months. (Elihu Harati)

'Wild animal' gets 10-year sentence

TEL AVIV. — The indecent assault of a young tourist and an attempt to rape her were punished in the district court here yesterday with a 10 year prison sentence. The judges described the behaviour of the convicted man, Ali Ishmael Nahlawi, 36, as that of a "wild animal."

Nahlawi, who previously served seven years for rape, was found guilty of attacking a French tourist in

an Old Jaffa park last January in broad daylight.

In a separate development a dentist from Tarshisha was yesterday remanded in custody for eight days by an Acre magistrate on suspicion of raping a patient. The woman, from the western Galilee village of Fassuta, told the court that she had been attacked by the dentist in his clinic. (Itim)

Refusenik stops hunger strike

Jerusalem Post Staff

Dr. Alexander Ioffe, an ally activist and refusenik for over a decade, yesterday ended a 19-day hunger strike following indications that he and his family may be allowed to leave for Israel.

The Public Council for Soviet Jewry announced yesterday that Ioffe had conveyed this message to Dr. Yosef Irlin, who is now attending a

conference in Vienna. The Council said that the president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences had appealed to Ioffe to stop his hunger strike and had indicated that he may be allowed to leave.

LOTTO. — In yesterday's national lottery draw, the following numbers were picked; 3, 8, 10, 24, 27, 34, and the additional number, 36.



For some elderly, the golden years can lose their lustre.

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The Forsake Me Not Fund supplies heaters, blankets, pyjamas, mattresses, bedding and warm clothing — desperately needed during the cold winter months.

Bring a little comfort into their homes!

Many of Israel's elderly people live in sub-standard homes that urgently require repair or renovation, as well as security measures such as locks or beepers.

PLEASE, HELP US HELP THEM.
GIVE GENEROUSLY TO

"FORSAKE ME NOT"

Music reviews A Brendel concert — a cultural miracle

RUBINSTEIN CENTENARY CONCERTS:
Recital No. 3. Alfred Brendel in all-Schubert programme. (Mann Auditorium, Tel Aviv, January 25. 55. Musical Moments, D. 78; Fantasy in C major ("Wanderer"), D. 768; Unfinished Sonata in C major, D. 840; Sonata in A minor, D. 784.

THERE ARE NOT many cultural wonders in this world but an Alfred Brendel concert performance of Schubert must be considered as one of them. His records give one an idea of what to expect, but it takes the actual vibration of piano strings and the space of a concert hall for the full impact to emerge.

Brendel's miracle consists in his penetrating all the protective layers of Schubert's music — the instrumental arrangement and technical hazards, the structural plan and so on — and opening bare its very expressive heart. And then, the message goes directly to the listener's

heart. (When last did the "Wanderer" Fantasy come over as a deeply moving poetic statement in place of a bravura piece?)

To achieve his goal, Brendel utilizes an analytical mind of tremendous probing intensity. Nothing in his playing depends on chance. The interpretations are always original, often highly unconventional, the discoveries along the way — concerning thematic references, chord voicing, mode of sound extraction — are often striking. These interpretations do not just sound convincing; it is as if there was no other way to approach the music.

This is because the results of Brendel's intellectual analysis are fertilized by a no less intense emotional identification. He doesn't play he lives the music.

The artist's affinity with Schubert

is all-encompassing: he is as well attuned to the epic expanse of the unfinished C-major sonata, with its veiled reference to the song *Erkling*, and the hints to the as yet unwritten great B-flat major sonata, as he is to the concise Musical Moments; he is also as at home with the massive sonorities of the "Wanderer" as with the transparency of the C-flat major Impromptu (played as an encore).

Brendel's Schubert is not happy, carefree Romanticism, singing along as he enjoys the good things of life. Even when the surface appears innocently sweet, there is an awesome tragedy lurking behind. In a way, listening to a Schubert evening by Alfred Brendel is like seeing a Shakespeare tragedy; one doesn't leave smiling, yet one goes home spiritually enriched.

ELI KAREV.

Bach, Mozart, Schumann — all victims

RUBINSTEIN CENTENARY CONCERTS:
Recital No. 4 — Radu Lupu, pianist. Bach: Partita No. 2 in C minor, S. 526; Mozart: Sonata in C major, K. 330; Schumann: Fantasy in C major, Op. 17.

LISTENING TO the first chords of the Sinfonia, the first movement of Bach's partita. I immediately sensed the recital's direction, and, regrettably, guessed correctly. Everything Lupu did seemed to contradict the properties of Bach's music. Not only was the radical romanticization disturbing, but Lupu's constant and often extreme changes of tempo and dynamics, the unmitigated rubato, the overdramatization and the pathos all seemed totally out of place, impeding the flow and robbing the music of its basic characteristics.

The Mozart seemed different, Lupu starting elegantly with charm

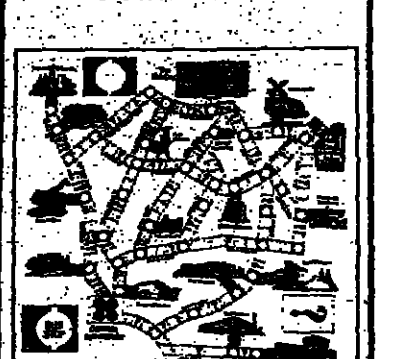
and a light touch but soon reverting to his individualistic mannerism. A sudden change of tempo in the song-like andante, introducing a mysterious Schubertian pianissimo, strange accents and a lack of consequential deployment of the material in the third movement, turned this charming, rather simple sonata into an overdone and extremely haphazard affair.

Considering all Lupu had done with Bach and Mozart, one could have hoped for a more authentic Schumann. Schumann's romantic fantasy is of loose form, offering the performer a variety of means of interpretation. But even Schumann was a victim of Lupu's opportunistic, overconfident approach. True, the work poses great problems and needs a regimentation to hold it together,

which Lupu, of course, could not impose. He revealed an absence of direction and of form, and failing to interpret the work as a whole. The Fantasy disintegrated into a sequence of episodes which, with a few exceptions in the last movement, appeared broken. The first movement's ideas were over-exposed, impulsive and confused. The second movement lacked steadiness and even the last movement seemed arbitrary in its progressions and deployment. But the most serious shortcoming was the absence of emotional honesty. Lupu was simply unconvincing in his erratic nature, his belief that his personal needs can be put above the music turned this recital into an irritating and repulsive one-man show.

BENJAMIN BAR-AM.

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דרכי אמת לא מובנות



Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak is greeted on arrival for the summit by the Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah. (Reuters)

The Islamic summit faces a daunting task

THE IRAN-Iraq war, raging less than 150 kilometres northwest of Kuwait, has dominated the agenda of the Islamic summit.

But behind the closed doors of the opulent conference centre built for the meeting, the leaders of more than 40 Islamic countries also are seeking to better the lives of about 850 million Moslems around the world.

They face a daunting task. The Islamic world, which includes some of the world's poorest nations, is beset by economic woes, political schisms and social problems.

"Islamic states are serious and hitherto helpless victims of the inequitable international economic order," the secretary-general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference said before the conference opened Monday.

"We stand at a crossroad where we have to decide whether to take the path of hope and progress or to reconcile ourselves to privation and denial."

But efforts to improve the lot of the world's Moslem masses are hampered by divisions within Islam which span the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

At least 13 of the 46 OIC members are fighting wars, are torn by civil war or are combating internal rebellion.

Ending the slaughter of the 6-year-old Gulf war — with more than one million casualties already, by Western estimates — is the overriding objective of the summit, the fifth

since the OIC was founded 17 years ago to unite the world's Moslems.

With Iran, a prominent OIC member, boycotting the summit because it charges that Kuwait sides with Iraq, the chances of a significant breakthrough toward a negotiated settlement are slim.

THE IRANISANS have repeatedly rejected Iraqi peace offers but there are some signs that pressure from the oil-rich Gulf states, alarmed at the escalation in the fighting in recent weeks that could suck them into the conflict, is having some effect.

Syrian President Hafez Assad, Iran's main Arab ally, says he opposes Iran seizing chunks of southern Iraq. The Iranians now are threatening Basra, Iraq's second-largest city.

Assad, who relies on cut-rate Iranian oil to keep Syria's economy afloat, says he has warned Tehran that "expansion of the war means the outbreak of a Persian-Arab war, the invasion of an Arab country will mean a change in Syria's position."

The Syrians are aligned with Iran partly because of Assad's differences with Iraq's President Saddam Hussein. The two countries are ruled by rival wings of the Baath Socialist Party.

Even the mercurial Col. Muammar Gaddafi of Libya, Iran's other Arab ally, has called for a halt to the fighting.

In an interview with Kuwait's radical *Al-Watan* daily, Gaddafi was

quoted as saying: "This war is meaningless. Iran is not an occupied country for Iraq to liberate, and Iraq is not an occupied country for Iran to liberate."

He said their war is deadlocked, with both sides unable to win an outright victory, and that a peace settlement "is like a mirage — the closer you seem to get to it the further it moves away."

"This war is an affront to Islamic ethics and Arab values," he was quoted as saying.

THE LIBYANS themselves are fighting government forces in neighbouring Chad, whose president, Hisene Habre, is attending the summit.

Gaddafi isn't at the meeting he has branded "a farce" because Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is attending. He said Egypt is illegitimate because it signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

Settling Chad's civil war is another summit objective, along with the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and the Lebanese bloodletting. Reviving the stalled Arab-Israeli peace effort through an international conference is also on the agenda.

These conflicts are hampering the purpose for which the OIC was founded — to unite and develop the Islamic world.

But conference officials say they also are tackling the fundamental problems besetting many Moslem countries — poverty, illiteracy, disease and social change.

(Associated Press)



PLO chief Yasser Arafat, in "dress uniform" instead of his habitual battle fatigues, is greeted by the Emir of Kuwait. (Reuters)

Food for thought

KUWAIT is footing a food bill of \$20 million to host the fifth Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) summit.

Caterers are bringing in 15,000 meals a day to feed 1,500 members of more than 40 delegations, a 600-strong media contingent and an army of security men and workers at the \$400 million summit centre.

"The cost of all this adds up to nearly half our national budget," said one Afghan delegate tucking into a gourmet buffet.

The food is subjected to meticulous security checks and tested by a team of 400 doctors and laboratory technicians.

THE SUMMIT hosts have gone to great lengths to meet the needs of all visiting leaders — like installing an extra-long bed for 2.03m. tall Senegalese President Abdou Diouf.

SECURITY measures at the summit complex are so tight that 90,000 flow-

er pots of chrysanthemums flown in from the Netherlands to add a splash of colour were individually checked. The metal detectors are so finely tuned they have caused red faces among some women in the press corps. More than one reporter had to remove her brassiere to reveal it was small strips of metal in the padding that was setting off the beeper.

KUWAIT'S Emir Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah sent a private plane to pick up the head of the smallest state attending the summit, President Ahmed Abdallah of the Comoros Islands in the Indian Ocean.

The Comoros' claim to the nearby French-ruled island of Mayotte is a permanent item on the agenda of Islamic summits.

Kuwait built a new runway for aircraft flying Islamic leaders to the summit. The cost: \$70 million.

(Reuters)

A DESERT trading post and pearl-diving backwater until it struck oil, Kuwait today is an ultra-modern cosmopolitan city-state which has assumed the symbolic leadership of the Islamic world.

The Emir, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, has been hosting a summit of the 46-member Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) whose leaders represent one billion Moslems around the globe.

For the rest of the decade he will hold the mantle of ICO chairman, which passed to him from Morocco's King Hassan who hosted the last triennial summit in Casablanca in 1984.

The choice of Kuwait to host the summit, which began Monday and ends today, underlines a strategic and international role vastly greater than the country's size of 18,000 square kilometres and population of 1.7 million people might suggest.

KUWAIT, ruled by the al-Sabah dynasty for 250 years and independent of Britain since 1961, has far more crude oil per square metre than any other country, with reserves

Symbolic leadership

Rory Channing/Kuwait

third in size only to those of the Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia.

Oil was struck in 1938. Kuwait has an Opec (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) output quota of 948,000 barrels per day but could pump well over double that. Its reserves will last over 250 years at current production levels.

The country has used its oil windfall wisely, setting aside 10 per cent of annual income in a "nest egg" for future generations as part of 80 billion dollars in national savings built up at home and abroad since the 1970s oil boom.

At the same time, it has given freely to less fortunate Third World countries making it the world's most generous aid donor.

Latest figures compiled by the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) show Kuwait spent 2.72 per cent of its 1985 Gross National Product on Third World development aid.

THE EMIRATE has often stated its desire to exist as an "oasis of peace," but in the turmoil of Middle East politics, diplomats say, this is easier said than done.

"Kuwait is caught on the fringes of a destructive whirlpool, constantly on guard against the risk of being sucked in," says a senior Western diplomat.

The Iran-Iraq warfront is only 80 km. away.

Iran is boycotting the summit because of Kuwaiti backing for Iraq. Down the Gulf, tankers serving Kuwaiti ports have drawn five missile attacks this month, which shipping sources in the region blame on Iranian warships.

Pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon threatening the summit claimed responsibility for a bomb explosion in Kuwait Saturday night and for small fires at oil installations earlier last week. No casualties and only minor damage were reported.

Ironically, 25 years ago, Kuwait's problems lay with Iraq when Baghdad revived territorial claims over the Emirate. British and Arab League troops had to be despatched to Kuwait.

With armed forces numbering only 13,000 men, a major plank of Kuwait's foreign policy has been to aim for good relations with potential enemies and close ties with a wide array of nations on whose diplomatic support it could count.

Kuwait was the first Gulf Arab state to establish ties with China and the Soviet Union so as to balance its relations with the West.

The world's longest-serving foreign minister, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sabah, who was appointed in 1963, is credited as co-architect with the Emir of a "friends with all" non-aligned policy.

Kuwait has weathered several domestic upheavals in recent years, including a collapse of local stock markets resulting in a spectacular debt mountain of 95 billion dollars and a string of bomb attacks.

Citing economic and security crises, the Emir, who survived an assassination attempt in 1985, dissolved Kuwait's national assembly last July — until then the only parliament in the Gulf region.

(Reuters)

IRAQ'S SECOND city, Basra, is battered and bruised but its defences are intact.

Shells rain on the city centre, reducing buildings to rubble and setting cars on fire. The sprawling expanse of low brick buildings looks like a huge army camp with buildings protected by sandbags and the streets full of armed regular and "popular army" soldiers.

The shelling is heaviest in the eastern suburbs and the city centre, from which the population has fled. But in other sections of the city life is fairly normal, apart from the fact that people are living and sleeping in basements.

The intense shelling results from Iran's territorial gains to the east, which have brought main parts of the city within artillery range.

But Iranian forces have not reached Basra's main defences, enormous earthworks and artificial ditches which criss-cross the flat hard-baked land east and south of the city. Here the Iraqis have dug in their tanks and guns, further protected by minefields. This is where the main battle for Basra will be.

The Iraqis believe they have created "killing zones" for their aircraft, tanks and artillery in the wide open spaces between the earthworks.

Among a cache of captured Iranian weapons I was shown near the front last week were green pills of atropine, an antidote to poison gas, indicating that the Iraqis expect chemical weapons to be used again.

The prevailing view among military analysts here is that Basra's defences will hold and that Iran will exhaust itself.

"Bear in mind that the Iraqis made their biggest territorial gain in the first 24 hours of this offensive," said one military observer. "In the following two weeks they have gained less than half a mile."

"It is doubtful if they can keep up the momentum much longer. Their supply lines are long and vulnerable and are being attacked by Iraqi aircraft. And the losses are colossal. Their tactics are like pushing people into a meat grinder."

However, the fact that Iran has captured Iraqi territory has given it a tremendous propaganda coup.

There is speculation here that General Jawad Thanoun, Iraq's Chief of Staff, has been dismissed. The road from Basra to Nasiriyah, 160km. west, was said last week to be jammed with traffic and an Indian official who travelled along it estimated that one in five cars contained fleeing families. But accounts of a mass exodus from Basra are discounted here and most observers calculate that the majority of the

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Battered but defiant

Ian Mather
Baghdad



which has taken it within 10 kilometres of Basra.

city's one million people remain.

IN THEORY it is business as usual in Baghdad. Most shops, offices, restaurants, bars and even night clubs with winking neon signs are open under the "normality" policy of President Saddam Hussein.

Few people go out in the evenings; though the streets are lit, most prefer the relative safety of their homes. Those who do go to city centre restaurants eschew the fashionable views of the gentle Tigris, choosing instead to huddle at tables in alcoves or as far as possible from windows, which would disintegrate into lethal shards if a missile landed nearby.

The missiles, *sarouk* in Arabic — breathed softly as though unmentionable in public — began falling on Baghdad about the time Iran began its latest and longest offensive.

Bureaucracy is to blame

Peter Talmon

Egyptians traditionally take great pride in their capital, commonly referring to it as *um al-dunya* — mother of the earth. The name Cairo itself was not bestowed upon just any city — it literally means "the conqueror." However, the Cairo of today is crumbling under a population explosion and living conditions are so bad that one Egyptian journalist recently found it appropriate to label Cairo "a gas chamber for collective suicide."

The journalist, Sayd al-Gabarti, in a recent article for the daily *Al-Akhar*, was not content with the usual lamentations. Most of his readers know the facts — they live them. More than 300,000 tons of garbage are thrown into the streets daily; air pollution is 10 times greater than the urban world average and getting worse, and poisonous fumes from motor vehicles and industry are spread into the air at a rate of almost 4,000 tons a year. The list could continue, but Al-Gabarti prefers to

address one of the country's major reasons for Egypt's failing to overcome these scourges. Egypt must confront its other great scourge, bureaucracy, if it is to sort out the myriad problems which make up Cairo's general disastrous state.

Failure to control bureaucracy is hindering solutions. Specifically, a masterplan for relieving Cairo of some of its social and environmental difficulties was drawn up and adopted some years ago. Entitled "The Preferred Strategy for National Settlement Policy", it aimed to build new cities outside the narrow and crowded Nile Valley, absorbing Egypt's growing population and relieving Cairo of some of the pressure. Further building for administrative purposes was to have been prohibited in the capital. However, not all has gone as planned.

President Sadat himself laid the cornerstone for a ministerial complex in Sadat City on August 24, 1980. The Ministries of Construction and Housing, Land Reclamation and Planning, and Sadat University were to be housed in it. Two years later, it was announced that the Ministry of Construction and Housing would enter its new offices sometime during the coming year. Four more years have passed since that time, and the buildings, which cost 6.5 million pounds to construct, stand empty. Meanwhile, new administrative skyscrapers have been built inside Cairo in an attempt by the bureaucracy to dig themselves in while there is still time.

"We altered the course of the Nile twice, took over the administration of the Canal, built the High Dam, and carried out the impossible crossing (the Yom Kippur War of 1973), but we are not capable of budging the ministries from the heart of the city," Al-Gabarti wrote.

There are other reasons why the streets are quiet, apart from the missiles. Many foodstuffs are scarce and some shops are closed because their owners and staff have gone to the war.

While vegetables are plentiful there are queues for beef, chicken and eggs. Foreigners have been instructed to buy eggs at special shops.

After more than six years of war, during which the normal two-year military service for men has been extended indefinitely, soldiering has become a way of life for many men. A bizarre sight during a visit last week to the central front, east of Baghdad, was what looked like an airport car park manned by attendants, with hundreds of cars in neat rows, some with sun covers over them. But there was no airport, only desert, and the cars belonged to soldiers at the front.

To make military life a little more palatable, troops are given government loans on easy credit terms to buy cars. All troops also get one week off in four, so many find it worthwhile to commute between home and the front along Iraq's excellent paved roads.

Military standards of comfort are remarkable even in the front line.

Food is plentiful and all ranks of the armed forces are among the best clothed in the world. One officer's bunker close to the front consisted of three rooms with carpets, easy chairs, plastic pink-starred wallpaper, a fridge, TV set, cassette recorder and an exercise bicycle.

BUT THE dark side of the war has touched virtually every family though casualties are not discussed publicly and displays of mourning frowned upon.

At Kabala, a holy site west of Baghdad where Imam Hussein, third saint of the Shias, and some of his relatives are said to have been killed, a vast cemetery has been built. Many of the tiled graves are draped with the red, black and white Iraqi flag, indicating soldiers who have fallen in battle.

In spite of the Iraqis' failure to make much progress in the past few days, they are clearly trying for something they can claim as a victory before the frequently repeated deadline for their "final offensive," which is 20 March, the end of the Iranian year. (London Observer Service)

The Middle East page is edited by Yehuda Litani.

Beth Hatefutsoth
The Nathan Goldmann Museum of the Jewish Diaspora

Screening of the film
"ONE DAY..."
and a meeting with **Sebastian Monk**, the son of the film's producer, **Egon Monk**

The film, which describes one day in a German concentration camp is in German, with English subtitles; the introduction will be in English.

The event is being arranged in co-operation with the Goethe Institute.

Thursday, January 29, 1987, at 7:00 p.m. in the Eyal Zion Auditorium at Beth Hatefutsoth

Admission: NIS 4.00; members of the Association of Friends: NIS 3.00

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'Amazing' brain grafts

INBORN brain defects in mice have been reversed "for the first time" by brain grafting, according to Hebrew University researchers.

Healthy brain tissue from fetal mice was transplanted into brain-damaged adult mice by Dr. Yosef Yanai and his colleagues at the neuro-birth defects lab at the faculty of medicine in Jerusalem. By this process, behavioural defects, such as the inability to go through mazes, were "cured."

Scientists now believe that the brain has no problem of transplant rejection, unlike most other organs. This allows the transplanting of foreign brain tissue into damaged brains to cure behavioural impairment caused by brain defects.

The exact location of defects in the brain is not known in most cases of behavioural impairment. But Dr. Yanai says he has been able to pinpoint the location of a defect in the brain that causes mice difficulty in finding their way through mazes. He induced a congenital disorder by giving pregnant mice a barbiturate drug called phenobarbital. They gave birth to mice that were deficient in getting through mazes and that showed behaviour reminiscent of Alzheimer's disease in humans. Study of their brains later showed that the defective part of the brain was the hippocampus.

When Dr. Yanai transplanted healthy brain tissue into the defective hippocampal section of the mice, their ability to find their way through mazes increased dramatically, he maintains. Their congenital impairment was "cured."

The researchers admit that brain grafts intended to restore functions lost through injury and cancerous growths or through old age are not new, but this was the first time an attempt to cure a congenital behavioural defect by transplant has succeeded.

Obviously, much more work must be done before this achievement in mice can be adapted for use in humans.

A PSYCHOLOGIST from Kalamazoo, Michigan, has invented and patented a device to deter drivers

from going faster than the speed limit. Called the "Deaccelerator," it attaches to the accelerator of a vehicle. The driver sets the device with the maximum speed allowed on the highway.

The device doesn't interfere with the functioning of the pedal at lower speeds, but the pressure needed to depress the pedal for faster speeds increases dramatically above the pre-set level. A driver can accelerate when necessary beyond the set speed, but he must use much more force than usual, and driving at higher-than-legal speeds continuously becomes very tiring.

The psychologists, Richard Schulman, of Western Michigan University, tested the deaccelerator on university faculty members who found that by using it, they consistently observed the speed limit. Although reducing speeds means fewer accidents and savings on petrol, he is worried that many drivers will not voluntarily buy and use the device because they prefer to speed.

Parents of young drivers certainly would want the device if it can keep their children safer. But perhaps the only way to make the deaccelerator a standard feature is for the government to require that it be installed in all cars.

A report of the device was published in the December issue of *Psychology Today*.

THE ISRAELI Police is considering the installation of a locally developed invention to catch speeding and tail-gating drivers. The device, called the "Black Box," was developed by Joseph Bodenheimer and Gerry Ben-David of the Jerusalem College of Technology.

The boxes are mounted on six-metre-high pylons on both sides of a highway. The monitors provide computerized, photographic print-outs of every vehicle on the road, recording not only the speed of the vehicle but also the distance between it and the one immediately ahead.

Police stationed at the boxes are able to record speeding and tailgating, two of the principal causes of car accidents. The police believe that

the new device is more accurate and flexible than radar monitoring.

The Jerusalem college, which has a curriculum that combines Talmud study with high-tech courses, is scheduled to host an upcoming international conference on driver safety in the capital. Ben-David believes that the device, if widely installed, will immediately change driving habits in this country.

"Black Boxes" were discussed in the latest issue of the police journal *Mar'ot*.

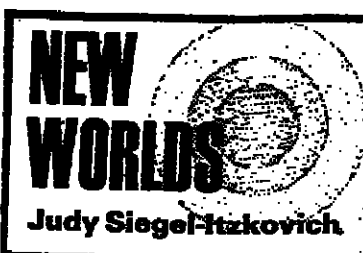
ADMIT IT. It's happened to you, too. You've left your car in one of those multi-storied garages, and upon your return, you can't remember where you've left it.

In Los Angeles, some innovative garage managers have decided to help out by adopting movie themes for each level. The theme music of *The Wizard of Oz* or *Star Wars*, for example, is piped into the air, with a different song at each level. Posters from the relevant movie are posted throughout. Now you can't get confused, unless you aren't a moviegoer, says a recent issue of *Time*.

THANKS to the Saudis, American Jews may soon be able to know exactly when to recite their morning and evening prayers, and where to face so that they are looking towards the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

The ultra-Orthodox weekly *Erev Shabbat* recently reported that Saudi Arabian entrepreneurs have produced a device that shows the time of the rising and setting of the sun and has a built-in compass to locate Mecca. The electronic timepiece has a mini-computer that calculates the times of prayer. Sold for \$69.95 (or for \$29.95 in a special introductory offer), the device is being distributed in the U.S. among religious Jews who also find the device handy.

A CAMERA the size of a matchbox that can take TV pictures in dim light is being developed by a Tel Aviv firm and a West German company for the U.S. army and Nato. Miltron Tech-



nologies of Tel Aviv will soon unveil the tiny camera, which is 50x50x30 millimetres and can be held in the palm of your hand. The largest component is the lens. The camera, suitable for day or night use, utilizes infra-red rays.

WE'VE HAD so much rain this season, that it's a good thing a foreign company has come out with a device to measure it electronically. Called Rain-O-Matic, the NIS 130 device is composed of a collector and a digital clock. The farmer can press a button on the clock and get a read-out of how much rain has fallen in that spot since the moment he turned it down to zero.

WITH ISRAEL's first commercial TV channel on the drawing boards, we had better get used to the idea of TV advertisements. How long will it take us to get sick of them, as do American viewers?

The Newspaper Advertising Bureau in the U.S., which has conducted surveys about TV commercials since 1965, phoned 1,000 Americans recently to ask if they were watching TV at the moment. If they said yes, the interviewer asked them to remember the very last commercial they saw before going to the phone. The percentage of those able to remember correctly has dropped from 18 per cent in 1965 to only 7 per cent in 1986.

According to a story in *Psychology Today*, the reason may not only be the excess of poorly done commercials, or their running so many times that people disregard them, but also that most U.S. commercials are much shorter than before (to save money). Shorter ads are not remembered as well as longer ones, say the experts. Also, there are so many commercials - twice as many as 15 years ago - that the mind is quickly cluttered and loses its ability to recall.

Fear of the unknown

A YOUNG man lay in bed in a hospital ward, clutching an oxygen mask to his face every few seconds as he whispered to a doctor beside him. As the white-coated group moved away on their morning round, the patient lay back, the mask covering his face except for his eyes. In his eyes was terror.

A few days later, that man was dead. We may call him John. He died of *pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia, one of the infections most frequently contracted by people with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

His death was a blow to the medical staff caring for him. It is unusual for Aids patients to die of their first attack of pneumocystis, and John was being treated with the drug that usually brings recovery. On the day of his death, he had been looking and feeling better.

John was the third Aids death that week. He was 25, the same age as Michael Binks, the houseman on the ward. "It's hard not to get involved with Aids patients," says Dr. Binks. "They are usually young, intelligent and articulate; they've read the papers and they know about the disease. You feel: could we not have done something more for him? Even if you know there was nothing we could have done."

This month that hospital - the Middlesex, in central London - will open the first ward in the country dedicated to the treatment of patients with HIV infection, the virus that produces Aids. The ward, a \$500,000 conversion of an old surgical ward, is an immaculate and streamlined place, made cheerful by a newly-appointed young nursing sister and 15 nurses. But it is also the focus of a mass of problems facing this hospital from a virus now considered the greatest threat to world health this century.

MICHAEL ADLER, Professor of Genito-Urinary Medicine at the Middlesex, saw his first Aids patient early in 1983. "I must admit that at that time I thought it was some rare thing which would disappear, or solve itself."

"Now it's all around - one's bombarded with it: the phones are ringing as you come in and when you go home at night. Yet even now, part of it feels like a bad dream. You think you're going to wake up, and it won't be here."

But it is. Some 599 cases of Aids have occurred in this country, of whom half are now dead. The number of people infected with HIV virus is estimated at anything between 25 and 100 times that figure. "This virus is a killer," warns Dr. Richard Tedder, the Middlesex's

Israel's 34th Aids victim died this week. In England, a hospital has opened the first ward in that country solely to treat victims of the Aids virus. Janet Watts reports.

consultant virologist. "Aids is less important than HIV infection, which may kill far more people later, of virus-related disease like chronic cephalopathy than those dying in a few years of immune deficiency."

Nobody knows what proportion of HIV-infected people will develop disease. At first it was thought to be as low as 5 to 10 per cent; now the estimated percentage is rising all the time, as the virus is found to cause more different diseases in different parts of the body over longer incubation periods. More patients are now presenting Aids through disorders of the brain and central nervous system, besides familiar manifestations like pneumocystis and Kaposi's sarcoma, a purple-spot skin cancer.

THE DOCTORS in Michael Adler's department who visit and treat Aids patients are also conducting research and publishing papers on the subject. It is a shock to leave the (relatively) pure air of James Pringle House, where patients first arrive for Aids tests and walk around the corner to the main hospital, where Professor Stephen Semple's medical unit works closely to the people who are living and dying with Aids.

In the week that John died, Michael Binks was also concerned about Peter, an Aids patient admitted to the hospital with a hand tremor, though he was able to walk and talk normally. But within 14 days he had died.

"I'm new to this game," says Binks. "I was very upset. You swallow it down, get on with the day and pretend it's not affecting you. But it does." The medical unit still does not know what caused Peter's death; or why John died, or why the Aids patient in the next bed, also suffering a first attack of pneumocystis, recovered and went home.

The areas of ignorance about HIV infection and Aids add to the stress it imposes on patients and staff.

"There is nothing we fear as much as the unknown; and that is very often what we have to deal with," says David Miller, the clinical psychologist at JPHL.

There are doctors rushing around who can't cope. We have to face the fact that we don't know what is going on in a patient, or what to do about it," says Michael Binks. "And on the ward I get patients asking me for a rationale about what's happening, which only sometimes is possible to give."

FEAR OF infection by Aids patients can affect anyone from ambulance men and hospital cleaners to senior consultants and administrators. The fear is more emotional than rational, says Dr. Adrian Middel. "Statistics show that health workers are not at risk. But even health workers are not always rational."

The people most at risk from infection are those who handle infected blood, use sharp instruments and touch sharp bits of bone - the surgeons, dentists and pathologists. "You've got to have a stab wound to get infected, but there is a problem if you're using a knife, and cut your finger," says Professor Semple. "You'd do three million tests and post mortems on every Aids patient if it were not for this," says Dr. Ann Miller, Professor Semple's registrar. Many questions could be answered by such investigation of both the living and the dead.

Professors Adler and Semple believe they are gradually winning their colleagues' full cooperation. Yet requested tests on Aids patients can still be resisted. There is homophobia and prejudice in the hospital as in the world outside it, and all the Aids patients so far have been homosexual.

All the professionals dealing with an Aids patient may experience profound moral and ethical dilemmas from the taboos shadowing homosexuality and the disease itself. "If we are asked 'Has he got Aids?' we can't agree to lie," said a doctor. "There's something called 'Aids burnout,'" says Miller wryly. "We ask each other how we're doing, and the answer is 'Just holding off burnout.' I can't go home after a day like that and listen to music and think that everything's fine."

Yet there is an energy and excitement about the opening of the new ward. "Good things can still happen with Aids," says Michael Adler. "One is that it is teaching a new generation of doctors to start communicating with the patients again because they can't hide behind a range of pharmaceutical wonders this time."

(London Observer Service)

Full of meaning

Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

THE LATEST dictionary to be published in Israel is puzzling to all but a handful of scientists, who will find it most helpful. It is called *Gnomic: A Dictionary of Genetic Codes*, and has been compiled by a molecular biologist at the Weizmann Institute of Science.

Compiled by Prof. Edward Trifonov, with assistance from his former graduate student Volker Brendel, the dictionary will help genetic engineers interested in increasing yields of genetically engineered proteins, as well as cancer experts who want to identify sites on genes at which malignancies originate. It will also be useful to molecular biologists wanting to know the meaning of the new genes and genetic fragments they have isolated.

An updated edition with 1,500 entries is now being prepared. Weizmann is also considering the production of a computer-accessible version of the entries, which would be capable of providing researchers with automated translations of their DNA fragments. It may be included in the data base system of the

National Institutes of Health in the U.S.

"When researchers succeed in isolating or analysing a new gene, or segment of DNA," says Prof. Trifonov, "they are generally unaware of previously studied sequences of chemical symbols that may appear in what they produced. By consulting the dictionary, they can easily pick these out."

The dictionary will be able to tell them if a gene segment attacked by a lethal virus will be affected in such a way that the virus will integrate itself into the cell's genetic code. A gene may be cut by certain enzymes. This information is also provided by the book.

AT PRESENT, of the billions of individual genes believed to exist in nature, there are only some 10,000 whose chemical sequences have been analysed and published. The meaning of much of the material within the analysed genes remains obscure. Only by gathering and deciphering more genes, comparing them and their functions can molecular biologists advance their

knowledge of genetic codes.

In the Sixties, researchers began to realize that the genetic code over-rides the structure of proteins produced in the body with a series of triplets of "glyphs," known to chemists as nucleotides. Each triplet represents a single amino acid and the sequence of the triplets dictate the order in which the amino acids are to be placed in the protein.

Genetic language is composed of strings of nucleotides of only four types and symbolized by the letters A, C, G and T. Prof. Trifonov and his colleagues suggest a concept of "words" for this genetic language. He claims that once enough "words" are discovered and their relation to one another is understood, scientists will be able to study genetic codes as linguists study languages.

Why does the professor call the genetic language "Gnomic"? One day, his assistant, Volker Brendel, was editing a manuscript using a computer program that checks spelling. The program, based on a commonly used dictionary, couldn't master some of the technical terms. So when it came to "gnomic," referring to genes, Webster's computerized dictionary understood gnomic, which refers to gnomes and means "wise and pithy, expressive, full of meaning." Brendel thought this was a perfect name for a "secret" genetic language, and thus dubbed the new dictionary.

weapons development on the station. Work could range from the testing of powerful new lasers that could destroy Soviet satellites to research on new ultra-light alloys for missile construction.

"We must keep our options open for the conduct of national security experiments on-board the station," Colonel Gerald May, director of space for the National Security Council, told the American Astronautical Society last month.

Nasa negotiators have therefore been told to insist on the inclusion of a clause in any space station agreement that will permit future development of weapons. The move has infuriated European, Japanese and Canadian space officials.

"At the moment, the Americans have decided merely to keep their options open regarding the military use of the space station," said Mr. Ian Price, head of ESA's Washington office.

"The real questions that must be decided before we hold a special bilateral meeting with the Americans next month concern the type of military research that is being contemplated and its location on the station."

"Are they thinking about actual weapons development or are they only considering basic research? Similarly, do they want to use the whole station - including the European section - or are they thinking only of using their part of it? At present, it is unclear what their exact plans are - though there is little doubt we find the whole situation very worrying indeed."

(London Observer Service)

Space station row

Robin McKie/London

AMERICAN defence officials announced recently that they may use the proposed U.S.-European manned orbiting station to develop space weapons. The plan could be the \$8 billion civil project.

U.S. Department of Defence officials' sudden change of policy caused delicate space station negotiations between the European Space Agency (ESA) and the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration to be suspended.

"There is now a real cause for concern that military intervention will force us to back out of the project," said a senior ESA official. ESA's constitution forbids it from participating in "war-like" activities in space. Similarly, Canada and Japan - which were also considering participating in the station - may pull out of the project.

Europe agreed to join in America's ambitious space station project in 1985 when ESA began work on a joint feasibility study with Nasa.

European scientists, including researchers from Britain, wanted to take advantage of the permanently orbiting station to carry out a range of advanced civil research projects - such as the development of new alloys and drugs in zero gravity, research in biology, physics, Earth observations, astronomy and other work.

But at the time of the initial agreement, ESA officials warned they would take a very tough line with Nasa. Many were angry over previous co-operative projects which were arranged on unfavourable terms for Europe.

On the other hand, American companies warned that they did not want to share commercial products, developed in space, with European partners.

AS A RESULT, negotiations followed a delicate course but were beginning to look hopeful - until the U.S. Department of Defence intervened last month. Its officials had frequently stated that the space station was to be used for civil science only. In 1984, Nasa administrator James Beggs toured the world to assure governments that it would never be used for weapons development.

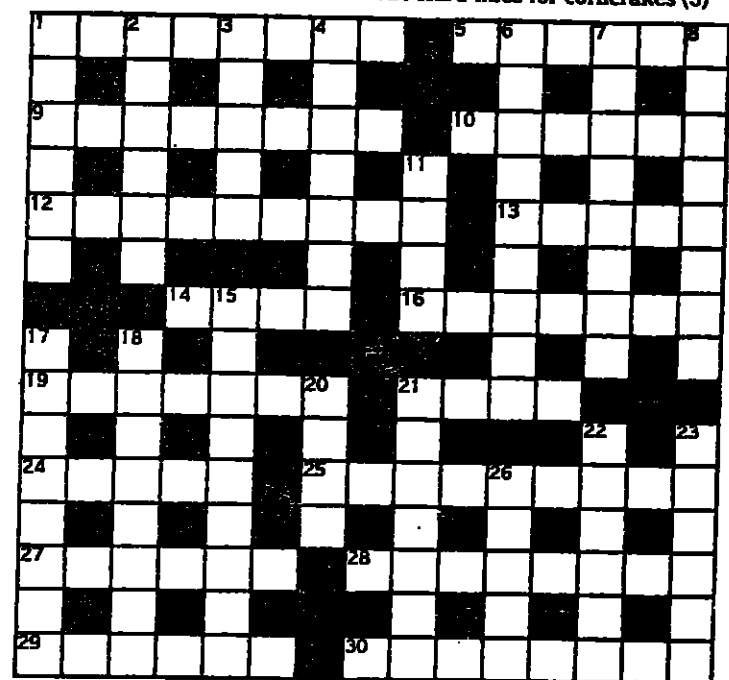
But the Challenger tragedy - which reduced the U.S. space shuttle fleet from four to three craft - has forced the Pentagon to change its stance, say officials. To develop its Strategic Defense Initiative - "Star Wars" - weapons, it may be forced to use the space station.

As a result, a new military space policy document - to be signed by Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger this month - will authorize U.S. astronauts to work on space

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Old Nick in America (8)
 - 5 A cough mixture up in Argentina? (6)
 - 9 Get control of silly mid-on before tea-break (8)
 - 10 Trains not working—show indignation (6)
 - 12 Maurice, dear to the French and alive no longer? (9)
 - 13 Horse's refusal announced (5)
 - 14 Security put up at wicket (4)
 - 16 Last of ale in eight-pint vessel (7)
 - 19 Retired student to get re-start at Rugby (4,3)
 - 21 First class stamp (4)
 - 24 Not entirely typical, this operatic heroine (5)
 - 25 Ode Coward composed for some cargo from Ophir (9)
 - 27 This part of Hampshire nice and peaceful? (6)
 - 28 Hoping for an analgesic before midnight (8)
 - 29 Extravagant display by divers (6)
 - 30 Boards providing local colour? (3,5)

- DOWN**
- 1 Kidnap sailor with pipe (8)
 - 2 Slightly arch doctor in medley-race (6)
 - 3 Vehicle for the Friendly Islands (5)
 - 4 Building society's deposit? (7)
 - 6 Stimulant for a N. Ireland development (9)
 - 7 Fish course for fellow-motorist (2,6)
 - 8 Beetle to cast a shadow (8)
 - 11 Jug on board? (4)
 - 15 Irregularities of angles between planets (9)
 - 17 Did a nose operation to remove this tissue (8)
 - 18 A variety of bordello callers, sound it (8)
 - 20 Staple food? (4)
 - 21 Badly used fellow outside is like a jellyfish (7)
 - 22 Acknowledging applause for violin-playing (6)
 - 23 Saws these days take a long time (6)
 - 26 Hard lines for corncrakes (5)

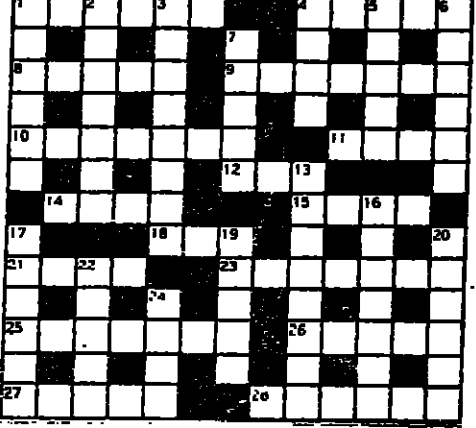


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YOUNG LADIES
EASTERN STAIRS
A S O S P N C T
TEAR FUMED THAI
H C Y R C U E C
EREMITE TENDRIL
R N I E
WEARING ANTACID
E A U N E O C
ISLE DELAY OPAL
G E B R G A I E
HAGGARD RANCOUR
T R R O A O U K
WOODANONES

ACROSS: 1 Screw, 4 Tinsy, 10 Fragile, 11 Ambie, 12 Extra, 13 Sterile, 15 Pity, 17 Fight, 27 Sugar, 28 Award, 30 Sincere, 31 Start, 32 Bleed, 33 Down, 2 Chart, 3 Epitaph, 5 Inane, 6 Niblick, 7 Often, 8 Least, 9 Level, 14 Type, 16 Item, 18 Instant, 20 Arsenal, 21 Ocean, 23 Verse, 24 Order, 26 Under, 28 Clean.

QUICK CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Administrative district
 - 4 Fiery particle
 - 5 Slant
 - 9 Pride
 - 10 Complacently foolish
 - 11 Prepare for publication
 - 12 Unit of work
 - 14 Small lake
 - 15 Formal act
 - 17 Fear violently
 - 21 Simple
 - 23 Compensate
 - 25 French pointer
 - 26 Eat away
 - 27 Linger
 - 28 Gloucestershire town
- DOWN**
- 1 Snub
 - 3 Old dance
 - 4 Observer
 - 6 Disagreeable
 - 5 Improve
 - 6 Unarmed combat system
 - 7 Run after
 - 13 Incline
 - 16 Musical quivering effect
 - 17 Lapwing
 - 18 Self-respecting
 - 20 Climb
 - 22 Indian instrument
 - 24 Refute

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مركز الإسعاف

Bank of Israel report on last quarter of '86

'Devaluation based on mistaken assumptions'

By PINHAS LANDAU
Post Finance Reporter

A new Bank of Israel report has revealed that the assumptions on which the 10 per cent devaluation and other recent economic measures were based may have been mistaken or, at least, outdated.

Export orders throughout industry rose sharply in the final quarter of 1986, and even the previously depressed electronics industry showed clear signs of recovery, according to the survey. Inventories fell in sharp

The economy as a whole is in the middle of a period of rapid expansion that is likely to continue through the coming months, with investment increasing for the first time in years.

contrast to the belief that they had been rising and thus causing a temporary surge in imports, towards the end of last year.

The economy as a whole is in the middle of a period of rapid expansion that is likely to continue at least through the coming months, with investment increasing for the first time in years. Employment prospects, however, remain mixed, with few firms expecting to add new staff.

These are the main findings of the quarterly Business Survey, conducted and prepared by Bank of Israel senior economist Dr. Meir Tamari. The latest survey, the 14th since the series began, was issued yesterday and covers developments in the last quarter of 1986 as well as expectations for the first part of this year.

The survey is based on analysis of the responses of 144 companies in all sectors of the economy, including industry, commerce, construction and transportation. Among the key trends that the survey points to are:

• **OVERALL ACTIVITY:** The rise in activity last year strengthened significantly in all economic branches during the last quarter of 1986, with both local and foreign demand, for both consumption and investment goods and services, well ahead.

• **EXPORTS:** Export orders, in particular, continued to rise all through 1986, and exports look set to carry this advance into 1987. Local orders, on the other hand, are rising at a slower pace than before.

• **INVESTMENTS:** Most companies responded affirmatively when asked if they had investment plans for the coming year. 1986 saw an investment level similar to that of 1985, but particularly in industry and construction, the current year should see growth in investments.

• **INVENTORIES:** All sectors reported a continuing reduction in inventory levels, with industry reducing even its raw material inventories, after two quarters of rising levels.

• **CREDIT:** The use of credit, whether provided to firms by banks or other sources, rose almost across the board. Only use of suppliers' credit in the building industry fell. Credit extended by firms to their customers rose as well.

• **EMPLOYMENT:** As found in the previous survey, there were more employers who expected to reduce their work-force than those who expected to increase it. At the same time, though, a growing number of industrial firms reported that the major bottleneck preventing expansion was the shortage of labour. This was especially the case in "traditional" industries such as food, textiles and plastics, where wages are generally low.

• **GROWTH:** A new feature of the survey is the inclusion of the number of firms that started business in the year under examination. This is often considered a vital indicator of the entrepreneur's expectations regarding the direction the economy is likely to take. The start-up figure of 6,783 firms makes 1986 the best year since 1983, when 5,506 new firms were established. The slump of 1984, with 3,988 start-ups, apparent-

ly reflected the expectation of hard times ahead. But 1985 saw a turnaround, as the figure rose to 4,861. This rate of increase was doubled last year.

Tamari's survey does not discuss the wider significance of the findings. In some cases these are little short of sensational. The drop in inventory levels, for example, casts grave doubt on the validity of the currently-accepted view in the Bank of Israel and the Treasury that the import surge late last year represented stockpiling of goods and raw materials, and that it should be regarded as a passing phenomenon.

In fact, it appears that the imports are feeding a much stronger boom than has hitherto been suspected, and one that extends beyond consumption to investments - after three successive years of declining investment. If so, the import surge may not tail off, as has been predicted. Similarly, the claims that exports are being hit by factors such as the lower dollar are not borne out by the response of companies in the survey. Electronics, for instance, was experiencing rising sales and orders well before the recent devaluation. Out of 16 respondents in this sector, 10 reported increased sales and only one suffered a reduction.

The preliminary National Accounts figures released earlier this month will almost certainly be updated, if the report's responses reflect the general trend in the economy, as they usually do. The slowdown in the first half of 1986 seems to have been more than cancelled out by the expansion in the latter part of the year.

Therefore, the preliminary findings of 1.1 per cent GNP growth and almost no increase in productivity during 1986 will probably be revised upwards. Productivity was apparently reduced when employers held on to excess labour through the winter of 1985/86, although output and production were then declining, but this policy paid off when the upturn began in the spring of 1986.

Insurance policy for heart treatments

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. - An insurance policy covering treatment for heart disease - the country's number one killer - was inaugurated by the Kial insurance group this week.

Under the policy dubbed *Lev Shaker* ("Peace of Mind"), subscribers will be eligible for treatment at private medical centres for less than NIS 5 a month. Kial general manager Rimona Ben-Shaul said that half the patients hospitalized in public hospitals for heart trouble are inadequately treated. Last year, 45 per cent of the country's deaths resulted from heart disease.

Lev Shaker will cover medical expenses of up to NIS 22,500 for bypass heart surgery; of up to NIS 3,000 for a heart examination (*izimur*); of up to NIS 6,000 for the clearing of a blocked artery by the use of a balloon; of up to NIS 1,500 for seven days in a convalescent home following surgery or a heart examination and of up to NIS 1,650 for up to 12 months of rehabilitation in an outpatient clinic. The premium is NIS 55 a year for a man aged 35, NIS 184 for a man aged 45 and up to NIS 318 for a man aged 55. Women receive a 50 per cent discount, because they are less prone to heart disease, and male non-smokers are eligible for 10 per cent.

Prof. Salomo Laniado, head of Ichilov Hospital's heart department and the programme's medical adviser, said that for lack of funds the public health system cannot provide basic treatment promptly.

Today, patients must wait from three to nine months for a heart examination, and up to six months for an operation to clear an artery or for bypass surgery.

Less than half the patients who required such treatment last year were treated within a reasonable time, Laniado said. Heart problems sometimes require urgent treatment, he stressed, and the wait can be fatal.

The private hospitals where policy holders can be treated are Assuta, the Herzliya Medical Centre, Bikur Holim, the Hadassah Medical Relief Association in Jerusalem and outpatient clinics in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa and Beersheba.

BANKING ON IT/Pinhas Landau

Save and spend

Bank Hapoalim has announced a slew of new savings schemes, based on the formula of save-to-spend. In all of them, the saver saves for a specific purpose, and has the option of a loan equal to the amount saved at the end of the savings period, with the loan being offered at better-than-usual terms.

Hapoalim first tried this formula with a scheme directed at potential car-buyers, and has apparently been sufficiently encouraged by its success to expand the idea. It commissioned a market research firm to assess what its clients' primary aims in savings were. It discovered that almost 40 per cent of them were interested in saving toward purchasing a home, 18 per cent saved with a view toward buying a car, 15 per cent for vacations, and 10.5 per cent for their children's higher education.

With the car-saving scheme already on the road, the bank is now offering schemes for other main targets. In the case of housing and education, which tend to be long-term plans, the schemes offer index-linkage and dollar-linkage on the savings. The loans offered are unlinked for periods of up to two years, but linked for longer periods.

The housing scheme, for example, can be for up to eight years, in either monthly or one-time sums, based on existing schemes such as Tsamud-Dollar, and Lamatmid, with improved interest rates over those normally available. The loan offered at the end of the savings period is up to NIS 60,000, or the equivalent of the amount saved, including interest and linkage - the lower of the two. It is available for up to eight years and for an amount that is not more than 60 per cent of the value of the apartment eventually purchased.

The higher education savings scheme offers an option whereby the student can withdraw the savings in stages, over the period of his studies, with a loan of up to NIS 5,000 per year, again equivalent to the amount of savings withdrawn that year. Here, too, the savings are index-linked and the loan may be either linked or unlinked, depending on the period involved.

The vacation-saving scheme is designed to run only three to nine months, and is based on Hapoalim's "choice of interest" short-term deposit, in which the saver gets either a fixed rate or a floating rate connected to the prime interest rate, whichever turns out to have been higher. The bank offers unlinked loans of up to NIS 20,000, for those who manage to save that much, to be repaid over a 12-month period, even though the savings period was shorter.

Invest through Discount
Discount has established a computerized information system for all its branches and investment centres, whereby would-be investors can receive updated data on the performance of the share, bond or mutual fund in

which they would like to invest. This data will include not only the yield over the last month and quarter, but also key points concerning the sales and profits of the company represented by the share or bond in question, and the investment policy and portfolio breakdown of the mutual fund being considered.

The bank's investment counsellors also receive a customer portfolio which allows them to analyse a client's holdings according to such criteria as equity/bonds, types of linkage, differing maturity periods, and so on.

The provision of information to investors was recently regulated by the Bank of Israel, and Discount is the second bank, after Hapoalim, to provide a fully up-to-date, on-line data bank service. With the completion of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange's own data bank, expected in April this year, the quantity and quality of information that the banks are able to provide are expected to increase further.

Bank Leumi has raised the ceiling on the total mortgage loans available from both its Leumi Mortgage subsidiary, and from Leumi itself, from NIS 45,000 to NIS 55,000. In addition, the bank has cut the interest rate on these loans by 0.5 per cent per annum, to 12.5 per cent, index-linked.

The loans are available to beneficiaries of Housing Ministry subsidized mortgages and to those not so privileged, with Leumi Mortgage providing NIS 33,000 and Leumi providing the rest as a "supplementary" loan. The total amount may not exceed 40 per cent of the value of the apartment. The loans are available for periods of five to 10 years.

Visa breaks into Co-op chain
For the first time, holders of Visa credit cards will be able to use their cards in one of the major Co-op chains. Starting in March 1987, the 126 supermarkets and nine hypermarkets of the Co-op Tel Aviv/Dan/Hasharon chain will begin honouring Viscard chain purchases, including the use of "Preferred Visa" whereby the customer obtains revolving credit from his bank, instead of paying for all his purchases each month.

Until now there has been a clear division between the major retail chains, with the Co-op and Tnuva shops accepting only Isracard, which is affiliated with Bank Hapoalim, while the Supersol/Hypercol chain accepted only Visa, which is run by Leumi and Discount. The Co-op/Dan/Hasharon move suggests that Visa's introduction of a full-service credit card has succeeded in breaking down this rigid division. Isracard has so far not followed suit by offering card-holders a revolving-credit option.

The series on EETIPOS will continue next week

WORLD BUSINESS IN BRIEF

UK to raise \$1.4b. from sale of British Airways

LONDON (Reuters). - Britain's conservative government will raise \$1.37 billion from the public sale of state-run British Airways next month, the Merchant Bank handling the stock market flotation said yesterday.

Merchant Bankers Hill Samuel and Co. said 720.2 million ordinary shares would be offered at \$190 each, to be paid in two instalments of 99 cents on application and 91 cents by August 18.

Share applications would close on February 6 and trading on the London Stock Exchange would begin on February 11.

The sale marks the latest phase in Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's ambitious denationalization policy, aimed both at raising funds for the government and creating a new group of small shareholders.

REPRESENTATIVES from nine oil-producing African nations Monday began the inaugural meeting of the African Petroleum Producers Association (APPA) in Lagos.

They were the oil ministers or their deputies from the four African members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) - Algeria, Libya, Nigeria and Gabon - and those of Egypt, Angola, Cameroon, Congo and Benin.

Together the nine account for 96.6 per cent of Africa's production, itself 7.7 per cent of the world's output.

SOUTH AFRICA'S inflation rate measured by the consumer price index dropped to 18.1 per cent in December, after peaking at 19.2 per cent in October and November.

Days of oil cartel appear numbered

By BERNARD JOSEPHS
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The first step towards breaking down the cartel that has controlled the oil market since the founding of the state was taken yesterday by Energy Minister Moshe Shaul.

The minister issued an order, starting next week, that will end the automatic carve-up of the multi-million dollar business between the country's three fuel companies Paz, Sonol and Delek.

Within a year, Shaul said, the oil market will be completely free, with open competition in all sectors from heavy industry to high street gas stations.

This should increase efficiency and bring down prices for the consumer, the minister said.

The first stage of the reform, signed yesterday by fuel-administration head Shimon Gilboa, ends the agreement that bears his name, under which the market is divided 45, 30 and 25 per cent among Paz, Delek and Sonol respectively.

Now the biggest oil users - the Israel Electricity Corporation, the Defence Ministry, the petrochemi-

cal industries and the concrete manufacturers can buy from each of the companies at their choice.

Prices, currently government controlled, will be deregulated, with only the maximum cost to the oil companies and to the consumer being set by the Energy Ministry.

The result will be that whoever of the three fuel companies gives the best prices will get the most customers - and that can only be good for the consumer, said a ministry source.

Under the new regulations Paz, Sonol and Delek will be able to buy up to 25 per cent of their crude and refined oil abroad on the spot market. The big customers, and the local refineries too, will also have the right to buy 25 per cent of their own needs abroad or locally.

The reform, which has been pushed through by Shaul despite fierce opposition from the three oil companies, is seen as a major breakthrough by ministry officials. They say that in time it could have a revolutionary effect on the market in which, up to now, market forces have been almost completely absent.

Energy 'wonder boy' leaving

By SIMON LOUISSON
For The Jerusalem Post

TEL AVIV. - Dr. Ilan Maoz, director of policy and planning at the Energy Ministry and the driving force behind the current reform of the oil industry, is to leave his office at the end of this month.

Maoz, who has held the job for over four years, said he would like to have stayed on for another year to finish what he started, but is leaving

because his salary is less than what he would earn in the private sector.

He intends to set up a consulting firm for international trade services and research and development projects, and also to act as consultant to the Ministries of Energy and Economic Planning.

Maoz says he has helped introduce a philosophy in the Energy Ministry, under which decisions are made on an economic basis.

Egypt likely to get IMF aid

By JOHN ROGERS

CAIRO. - Egypt, assured of Western political backing in tackling a \$38.6 billion foreign debt burden, looks set to win a rescheduling deal which should give its ailing economy crucial breathing space.

The spotlight turns on Egypt following the Western creditor government's agreement in Paris last week to reschedule debts owed by Brazil and the Philippines.

Although prospects for Egypt's long term economic health remain clouded, Western diplomatic and banking sources say the West has accepted its bid to be treated as a special case.

The key to Egypt's anticipated success is political. Western governments see a stable Egypt as vital to their Middle East interests and European security.

They want Egypt, the most populous Arab state, to undertake long-term economic reform but to accept that risks of unrest and instability as a result of enforcing austerity outweigh gains.

The diplomatic banking sources forecast an accord by mid-1987 on International Monetary Fund (IMF) standby credits of up to \$1b.

After an IMF accord now being negotiated in Cairo, the principle, if not detail, of rescheduling through the "Paris Club" of creditor governments will be a formality, they said.

The Paris Club, an informal gathering of Western governments, meets periodically in the French capital to discuss the rescheduling of government-backed debt.

Egypt sought IMF help and debt

relief because a hump in servicing payments - totalling \$4.9b. in fiscal 1985/86, which ended on June 30, and \$5.4b. in 1986/87 - coincided with reduced hard cash earnings.

After a \$2.9b. balance of payment deficit in 1984/85, Egypt received up to \$2b. less that last year from remittances by expatriate workers in the Gulf, oil and tourism.

The sources said the scale of debt relief was not yet certain. But Cairo wanted 100 per cent rescheduling, with a five-year grace period and five years more for repayment.

"They are seeking more generous terms than the Paris Club has normally given and they look likely to get it," one source said.

Another forecast rescheduling of \$1.5-2b. a year in interest and principal over four or five years.

Egypt's debt burden comprises \$33.8b. in medium and long-term public or government-guaranteed debt and \$4.8b. in short-term debt.

Its annual debt servicing was manageable until five years ago, the sources said. But then it began to mount - to \$3.7b. in 1981/82 and \$4.6b. in 1983/84 - as grace periods ran out on concessional loans from the 1970s.

Cairo is not servicing loans from Arab states before 1979, when most Arab countries severed diplomatic ties with Egypt after it signed a peace treaty with Israel.

This slices about \$1.5b. a year off the annual burden during the present payment hump, the sources said.

The U.S., Egypt's biggest creditor, is owed \$9.8b., nearly half of it

for past military sales.

Cairo was a major force pushing Washington to offer relief to 38 Third World military debtors last month. But President Hosni Mubarak rejected the terms, accusing Washington of not doing enough to help a major Arab ally.

The question of military debt is still under discussion, U.S. officials said.

In recent talks in Britain, France, Italy and West Germany, Mubarak argued that Egypt needed the best possible IMF terms.

The Egyptians have very successfully persuaded everybody to forget about the economics and have made it a political exercise at the highest level," one Western official said.

Economists and diplomatic sources believe that a deal with the IMF may involve balance of payments support in return for Egypt slowly unifying its multi-tiered exchange rate system and continuing a policy of gradually raising prices of subsidized goods and services.

Mubarak says Egypt is committed to reform, but not on terms dictated from outside. The government has set its sights on cautious, gradual changes.

Long-term economic prospects remain uncertain, depending in part on the price of oil, Egypt's main export.

Tourism is recovering from last year's doldrums and, so long as Egypt is not blighted by Middle East violence, should return to earning about \$1b. a year. Suez Canal income is expected to remain stable at around the same figure. (Reuters)

BANKING

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ISRAEL GENERAL BANK



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מכזאחנ אלדחל

20 top Leumi execs likely to leave while 'going is good'

By PINHAS LANDAU
Post Finance Reporter

Bank Leumi faces the possible resignation of over twenty senior executives as a result of the pay reductions instituted since last October for the bank's senior echelons.

The Hurwitz-Zadok report on payments to Leumi ex-chairman Ernest Japhet and other top-level officials, published yesterday, recommends that the bank try arbitration with Japhet in an attempt to recover some or all of the \$4.4 million severance pay given to him after his resignation in May last year. Failing that, the bank has a chance of winning a court case against Japhet, although the process will be long and costly.

Knesset Finance Committee Chairman Avraham Shapira, who had accused Leumi of presenting him false figures for the average pay of its top ten executives, reportedly withdrew the charge last night after receiving further clarifications from Leumi. Sources at the bank expressed surprise over Shapira's charges, and insisted that the figures quoted in the Hurwitz-Zadok report were consistent with those presented to the Finance Committee two months ago, in the wake of the "Globerson affair".

The report was compiled at great speed and under great external and internal pressure, by a five man committee chaired by outgoing Leumi Chairman Eli Hurwitz. Other members were Rehovot Mayor Yehzekel Hamelech and Professor Pinhas Saman, both members of the board of directors that resigned during the recent scandal. Leumi's senior legal adviser Zeev Sher, and chief internal controller, Yaakov Hirsch, while attorney and former justice minister Haim Zadok acted as special adviser.

Zadok provided a closely argued legal opinion, spanning 37 pages, on the legal problems surrounding Japhet's contract, on which his severance and pension pay was based. Zadok's figures show that

Japhet's pay was comprised of salary and bonus elements, and that it rose sharply in the period from 1981 to 1985. (The figures are in dollars).

YEAR	PAY	BONUS	TOTAL VALUE
1981	208,500	192,200	400,700
1985	325,300	480,000	805,300

These figures show that Japhet's pay doubled in nominal dollar terms over five years, and even after adjusting for inflation in the U.S., rose by 70 per cent. In 1983, Bank Leumi lost \$70 million, and in 1984 and 1985 made small profits. Japhet's bonus, like those of other senior executives, was supposed to be based on the bank's performance and on his own personal performance.

Zadok goes on to give a detailed chronological development of Japhet's pay from the time he joined Leumi in 1963, until he was forced to resign in the wake of the Bejski report last year. On the basis of his findings, which point to procedural and substantive faults in the way Japhet's contract was negotiated and authorized, the Hurwitz committee recommends that the bank act on Zadok's conclusions, and decide which legal steps it wants to take, while first offering Japhet the option of reaching an agreed reduction through arbitration.

Pending the outcome of either arbitration—which could take several months, even if successful—or court proceedings—which could take several years, even if unsuccessful—the committee recommends to the new Leumi board to stop Japhet's pension payments and start deducting the amounts saved from the sums the bank might claim back from Japhet's severance pay.

Apart from the Japhet payments, the report describes the use of personal contracts for the bank's top twenty executives, and their terms. Assistant general managers and senior assistants used to receive between \$60,000 and \$100,000 gross

annual payment; deputy general managers and joint general managers, between \$90-120,000 per annum, and the general manager, or Chief Executive Officer (CEO), \$200,000 per year. In addition, bonuses were paid amounting to 100 per cent for the CEO, and between 10-30 per cent for the others.

Current CEO Mordechai Einhorn received gross pay of \$380,000 in 1986, including bonuses. In the aftermath of the scandal sparked by the Globerson report last October, Leumi's board cut Einhorn's pay by 40 per cent, from \$25,000 to \$15,000 per month, and cancelled his bonuses for 1986. Other salaries of the personal contract recipients were cut by 10-20 per cent and their bonuses also removed.

The fall in pay resulted in corresponding losses to pension and severance-pay rights, since these are based on the last salary paid before retirement or resignation. The executives protested this fact and received support from some board members.

Hurwitz and Einhorn therefore negotiated a temporary agreement, which was approved by the board on December 7, allowing any senior executive who resigned from the bank in the course of 1987 to benefit from the old terms as far as severance and pension rights were concerned. Leumi therefore faces a major problem in the course of this year, namely, how to persuade its top managers to stay on at the bank when their financial self-interest is, in many cases, to take the higher payments while they are still available.

Leumi's new board, chaired by Dr. Meir Heth, will meet today to begin discussing the Hurwitz-Zadok report, although firm decisions may not be reached in the first round of discussion. The current expectation is that the board will follow the strategy laid down by the committee for dealing with Japhet, and consider the problem of its senior managers at a later date.



Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar and Finance Minister Moshe Nissim at the signing of the new economic package deal at the Treasury yesterday. (Media/Feinblatt)

BALAS

(Continued from Page One)
man's Yahad party, which joined Labour after the 1984 elections.

Balas is now on trial on charges of defrauding the kibbutz movement of \$29m.

The Jerusalem Post has learned that circles close to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir are displeased with the acrimony and potential instability that the issue is generating, and its effect on the national unity coalition. Likud backbenchers and minor figures from Young Herut are active in the campaign.

Balas and his attorneys have been suggesting for months that Balas was forced to pass funds from the kibbutzim and Histadrut enterprises to the

Labour Party. Neither the kibbutzim nor the Histadrut concerns are allowed by law to make campaign contributions, but individuals may donate funds.

Herut MK Michael Eitan yesterday said reports Balas gave Peres a \$1,200 watch "pale in comparison to the contributions charges... But it indicates the need for a true investigation."

"We cannot speak of an innocent contribution here," Eitan said, adding that \$600,000 "is more of an investment than a donation."

Labour party Secretary-General Uzi Baran yesterday accused the Likud of fishing in muddy waters. He said Peres's comment should be awaited on his return to Israel today.

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

MARKET STATISTICS

Indices:	
General Share Index	111.88+1.18%
Non-Bank Index	123.47+2.85%
Arrangement	104.01+0.04%
Insurance	111.35+1.95%
Commerce, Services	119.31+1.92%
Real Estate	122.32+2.47%
Industrials	124.24+3.80%
Textiles	125.92+3.95%
Metals	118.53+1.52%
Electronics	128.09+4.33%
Chemicals	123.39+3.86%
Industrial Invest.	128.09+4.33%
Investment Cos.	128.41+0.54%
General Bond Index	108.79+0.75%
Index-linked Bonds	109.56+0.87%
Fully-linked	111.53+1.22%
Partially-linked	106.73+0.31%
Dollar-linked Bonds	103.40+0.01%
Short-term 0-2 yrs	105.51+0.11%
Medium-term 2-5 yrs	108.80+0.87%
Long-term 5+ yrs	110.80+1.36%

Turnovers:	
Shares—total	NIS 21,279,100
Arrangement	NIS 2,657,800
Non-Bank	NIS 18,621,300
Bonds—total	NIS 12,041,500
Index-linked	NIS 8,592,800
Dollar-linked	NIS 3,448,800
Treasury Bills	NIS 19,511,300
Share Movements:	
Advances	240 (198)
of which 5% +	68 (47)
"buyers only"	6 (4)
Declines	31 (55)
of which 5% +	0 (1)
"sellers only"	0 (0)
Unchanged	117 (133)
Trading Halt	34 (35)
Bond Market Trends:	
Index-linked:	3% fully-linked
	Rises to 3%

4.25% fully-linked	Rises to 1%
80% linked	Rises to 1%
Double-linked	Rises to 3%
Dollar-linked:	
Admon	Slightly rises
Rimon	Slightly rises
Gilboa	Slightly rises
For. Cur. denominated	Falls to 2%
Treasury Bills	21.40-22.10%
Arrangement yields:	
IDB ord.	17.93%
Union 0.1	17.93%
Discount A	17.93%
Mizrahi r.	17.97%
Hapoalim r.	17.97%
General A	17.93%
Leumi stock	17.85%
Fin. Trade 1	17.86%

SELECTED PRICE QUOTATIONS

Name	Price	Volume	% change
Commercial Banks			
(not part of "arrangement")			
Maritime	1624	688	+0.4
General non-arr.	23350	70	—
First Int'l	4925	2962	+4.2
FBI	6200	2766	+3.6

Commercial Banks			
(part of "arrangement")			
IDB	87500	359	—
Union 0.1	65380	104	+0.5
Discount	111880	124	—
Mizrahi	38030	961	—
Hapoalim r.	38495	1800	—
General A	151900	40	—
Leumi 0.1	37820	1520	—
Fin. Trade	50300	5	+0.2

Mortgage Banks			
Leumi Mort. r.	10560	455	+2.9
Dev. Mort.	3315	1155	—
Mishkan r.	3839	3199	+10.0
Tefahot r.	9420	88	+8.3
Mera r.	9450	88	+8.3

Financial Institutions			
Agrie C.	170000	12	+11.3
Ind. Dev. DD	65800	—	—
Clal Leasing 0.1	23800	115	+6.3
Insurance			
Ararat 0.1 r.	1506	446	+3.9
Hassaneh r.	389	65153	+2.6
Phoenix 0.1	866	22411	—
Hamishma	7100	6	+1.4
Menoreh 1	2420	171	+5.2
Sahar r.	5700	288	+1.8
Zion Hold. 1	10200	—	—

Trade & Services			
Meir Ezra	1376	—	+5.0
Supersol 2	2147	—	+2.6
Delek r.	4250	3447	+1.9
Lighterage	16499	100	+1.5
Cold Storage	1101	4688	+7.7
Dan Hotels	1710	546	—0.3
Yarden Hotel	2691	271	—
Hilton	26243	—	+5.0
Team 1	1000	2938	—3.0

Real Estate, Building and Agriculture			
Axonim	1107	22498	+2.8
Elion	—	—	no trading
Africa Int. 0.1	48000	305	+2.6
Dankner	5220	780	—
Prop. & Bldg.	4785	1208	+2.0
Bayisde 0.1	5020	1554	+3.2
IDC r.	77500	313	+2.0
Rassco r.	7671	150	+0.0
Mehadrin	11550	539	+8.0
Hedarin	1815	2610	+3.4

Industrials			
Dubek b	4800	3419	+6.7
Pri-Ze 1	—	—	no trading
Sunfrost	13710	209	+1.5
Elion	19300	452	+4.0
Adgar	780	9529	—
Argaman r.	18600	150	+7.8
Ind. Dev. DD	3909	3321	+6.0
Maquette 1	5130	1294	+2.0
Enple 1	21885	91	—
Polgar	4700	601	+3.5
Schoeller	17150	341	—
Rogovin	2720	795	+0.7
Urden 0.1 r.	9750	377	—
La Can Co. 1	3810	494	+2.4
Zion Cables	2600	1700	+4.0
Pecker Steel	16200	316	+7.3
Elbit	50000	18	+2.5

Elron	417000	14	+5.0
Arit	31000	108	+3.0
Clal Electronics	2579	2078	+3.2
Spectronix 1	2780	1851	+3.0
T.A.T. r.	4900	450	—
Acikstein 1	1119	1678	+4.6
Agan 5	18382	105	+1.0
Alliance	2293	180	—
Dexter	3078	122	—10.0
Fertilizers	5000	100	+0.3
Haifa Chem.	605	25430	+5.1
Teva r.	12550	1427	+5.9
Dead Sea r.	3370	8515	+3.7
Petrochem.	590	27288	—
Neca Chem.	7139	205	—
Frutaron	15200	22	—0.7
Hadera Paper	350000	71	+3.2
Central Trade	10400	1069	+3.0
Koor p	9190000	1	—1.1
Clal Trade	2100	32307	+6.3

Investment Companies			
IDB Dev. r.	7010	18586	—
Elion	4850	3040	+5.3
Arit 1	268	51353	+9.8
Galehet	1600	1000	+3.3
Israel Corp. 1	14300	1237	—
Wolfson 1 r.	130500	—	—3.3
Hapoalim Inv.	8150	82	—
Discount Invest.	4340	3208	+0.5
Mizrahi Invest.	33400	169	+4.7
Clal 10	1297	17423	—
Landeco 0.1	3370	233	+2.4
Pama 0.1	13190	97	—0.2

Oil Exploration			
Paz Oil Expl.	25600	442	+0.4
J.O.E.L.	4710	2525	+6.8

Abbreviations:			
s.a. sellers only	b. buyers only	b. buyers registered	

PACKAGE DEAL

(Continued from Page One)

next Co-L allowance will be reduced by 2.7 per cent, and will be postponed to a date to be set by the Histadrut and the private employers. According to the Treasury, the 2.7 per cent will be paid to workers only in April 1988. In an appendix to the agreement, the employers pledge to set the date for the payment of the 2.7 per cent only after receiving the Treasury's consent.

After the ceremony, Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar said that if inflation increases in the coming months, the labour federation will demand compensation for wage erosion when the present collective agreements expire in April.

Dov Lautman, president of the Manufacturers' Association, hinted during the ceremony that the industrialists would not lag behind the Histadrut in their demands from the government. He said industrialists should raise prices only when such a move is fully justified, but at the

same time the government should approve justified hikes.

The package deal states that the system of price controls will be extended until the end of March 1988. The Treasury committed itself not to raise the prices of subsidized goods until then. This will not apply to public transport fares, which are to go up in the coming weeks.

The Treasury will adjust tax brackets, tax credit points and children's allowances in accordance with the full rate of increase in the Consumer Price Index, every time that a Co-L allowance is paid. The Histadrut and the Treasury also agreed that the government will refrain from introducing user fees in the health system, and will not demand that Kipat Holim Clalit raise its dues.

Employers' contributions to workers' pension funds will be raised by 1 per cent starting April 1988, but this will not increase the payments received after retirement. The increase will be tax deductible, and will help the pension funds solve their acute financial problems.

EUROPEANS

(Continued from Page One)

ence after the meeting with Peres that the declaration still formed "the basis of the attitude of the EC."

But he added: "There will be an analysis in February. We will see then if there is a need to change it."

Tindemans described an exchange of views between EC ministers and Peres on the Middle East situation as "excellent and extremely useful" in helping the 12-nation group develop constructive ideas for the region.

Peres told reporters that an international peace conference on the Middle East should not replace but complement direct peace talks.

He urged the EC to use its influence in urging Arab leaders to open peace talks with Israel.

"Europe can encourage Middle East leaders to go ahead and negotiate peace," Peres said.

Peres yesterday completed a 2½-day visit to Belgium and EC headquarters.

During an informal meeting with the EC foreign ministers Monday night, Peres urged the community to take a firmer stand on terrorism linked to Iran and cited the Shi'ite extremist group Hizbullah in Lebanon as an example.

In Israel, Alignment and Likud politicians continued to clash over statements Peres has made in Europe.

Responding to attacks on Peres by Likud leaders, Minister Ezer Weizman of the Alignment said: "It is not proper politically, diplomatically or socially to criticize the vice premier while he is abroad."

Weizman was speaking before the Jerusalem Economic Club.

On Monday, Housing Minister David Levy lashed out at Peres for promising in Europe that there would be no new settlements in the territories. And Minister Moshe Arens criticized Peres's support for an international peace conference, as well as his handling of the Foreign Ministry.

Weizman said he was "guarding his tongue" rather than publicly "giving marks on the functioning of other ministries."

Weizman said he could give Arens good advice on how to handle Arab affairs "before he starts taking care of the Foreign Ministry." Arens replaced Weizman last year as the minister responsible for minority affairs.

Industry Minister Ariel Sharon said yesterday that Peres's comments on a peace conference undermined efforts to maintain the Jewish character of Jerusalem. Sharon was speaking at a meeting of the Jerusalem Economic Corporation's board of directors.

HAWKE

(Continued from Page One)

mainly fundamentally committed to Israel's right to exist within secure and recognized borders.

But he said that Israel "must be constructively involved in the processes of resolving the aspirations of the Palestinian people."

In meetings earlier in the day with Shamir, Hawke said Jordan's King Hussein had given him "the very strong impression" that Amman is interested in peace. But Hussein wants peace to be achieved through an "international conference with Soviet participation," Hawke said.

According to a spokesman for Shamir, Hawke did not himself advocate an international conference as the best way to reach a settlement. But Hawke conveyed Hussein's position "in a favourable way," spokesman Avi Pazner said.

Shamir responded that Israel regarded the king's attitude to peace as "encouraging."

The two prime ministers yesterday spent 45 minutes together before a 90-minute working session flanked by aides. Pazner described the talks as "friendly and cordial."

On the bilateral plane, Shamir proposed to Hawke that the two countries conclude a free trade zone agreement, which would also include several of Australia's neighbours. Hawke said Australia would study the idea.

The two countries agreed to set up a joint committee to study ways of improving trade and economic cooperation. Shamir specifically spoke of increasing imports of Australian coal — if Australia buys more Israeli products.

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Whistling down the wind

THERE IS a growing body of evidence suggesting that the 10 per cent devaluation announced two weeks ago was unnecessary and very poorly timed. Export figures were consistently better than the industrial lobby made out, in their urge to earn themselves the quick fix that a devaluation would provide.

Now comes the Bank of Israel's quarterly report on business trends, which suggests that the economy, is firmly on the fast track, that all signals are go, and that - far from being a distant wish - growth and investment are happening here and now, at a pace not witnessed for years.

The report also finds that one of the comforting lines sold to the public by the economic establishment in recent months, namely that the import surge would pass because it merely reflected a bout of stockpiling, was the exact opposite of the truth. In fact, inventories fell everywhere in the last quarter of 1986, despite the fact that imports were rising strongly. Part of this is no doubt due to tax planning before the end of the tax year, which was advanced to the end of December for the first time. But part was due to the simple fact that output was running much stronger than anybody had previously supposed.

Finally, the survey found that industry's main bottleneck to increasing its production was a shortage of labour, particularly unskilled and low-paid labour of the sort needed by firms in the food and textile industries.

Against this background, the Treasury and the central bank introduced a devaluation which they still expect to be kept "real" - i.e., not swallowed up by price and wage rises. Their plan also included price rises, which they expect to remain localised, so that - incredible as it may sound - the finance minister has stated that the rise in industrial fuel prices should not cause other prices to rise. They expect the government budget, which was scratched rather than slashed, to be passed by the Knesset and be implemented without problems. And, as Governor Michael Bruno repeated the other day in his report on the rise in the means of payment, wage increases are expected, indeed required, to remain at zero in real terms.

This policy programme looked weak on paper two weeks ago. In the interim, the Histadrut and Kupat Holim have forced a revision of the budget policy, and the hospital workers have acted as pathfinders in showing that the wage policy is wobbly. Now, however, we have evidence that the whole plan never had a chance - it was doomed at birth. For if the economy is in the midst of a boom - and the stock exchange has been screaming just that for months past - then there is no hope of wage restraint, and regardless of the Histadrut having put its signature to the "package deal" yesterday, the national agreement will be undone at the local and plant level negotiations.

The demand for labour is there, the profits are there to pay for it, and therefore the price of labour will rise. If Messrs. Nissim, Bruno and Kassar continue to pretend otherwise, and thus continue to preach wage restraint to a labour market that is getting steadily tighter, they are simply whistling down the wind.

It would be far better for them to face reality than indulge in wishful thinking based on obsolete data.

Musical tower

WHEN THE DUST raised by the armies of newsmakers-for-a-day finally settles, the number of genuinely towering geniuses of creative energy in this turbulent century may turn out to have been less than legion. Arthur Rubinstein, the Jewish pianist, born in Lodz, Poland, exactly 100 years ago, will be counted among them.

The flowering of Jewish musical talent was one of the most striking cultural features of the early part of the century. Even against this brilliant background, however, Arthur Rubinstein's piano art stood out for its vitality and nobility of feeling. Romantic to the marrow, his music-making was at once stamped with the clarity and sophistication of the modern aesthetic outlook.

But Rubinstein, citizen of the world though he was as an artist, stood out no less for his courage and integrity as a loyal son of his people.

His association with this country started before Israel's establishment. The high level of the Jewish State's musical achievement over the decades owes more than a little to Rubinstein's contribution. His frequent personal appearances and the master-classes he conducted for young students have left an indelible imprint, and the triannual international piano competition to which he lent his name is already a national institution.

Fittingly, a glorious Rubinstein centenary festival draws to an end today in the course of which the Israel Philharmonic has hosted and accompanied some of the leading pianists of the post-Rubinstein generations. Only the master himself, full of youthful swagger as he was even into his nineties, has been missing. But he will be remembered.

KUWAIT

(Continued from Page One)

other Islamic countries anxious to preserve a facade of unity. Assad, in his summit address, also attacked the U.S., branding it as "the most terrorist state history has ever known. We in Syria have suffered hundreds of terrorist acts planned by the U.S. and other Western countries."

Assad added that the U.S. had entrusted its Middle East policy to Israel. "There is no U.S. Middle East policy, but Israeli policy implemented by the U.S.," he said. Assad and Mubarak last met in public at a non-aligned summit in Delhi in 1983, when they shook hands.

Eye-witnesses at the current summit said that the two presidents walked hand-in-hand, and Mubarak put his arm around Assad. But it was not clear if they had met again prior to that.

Conference sources, meanwhile, said Arab leaders may hold an informal meeting in Kuwait today to prepare the way for a long-delayed summit of the 22-nation Arab League.



Jordan's King Hussein, meanwhile, made an impassioned plea for an end to the Gulf war, and Mubarak proposed an interim cease-fire and a Muslim non-aggression pact as a new avenue to peace.

There were signs that Syria was moving away from its strong support of Iran in the conflict, sources said.

UNLESS SOME clear overall policies are initiated in the health-care field, there will soon come a time when demand so outstrips the available finance that except for a minority who will be able to pay up, the range and quality of medical services will be radically curtailed for most of those who require them.

This point was well presented in a recent article in *The Jerusalem Post* by Dr. Ram Ishai, but unfortunately he did not in the main offer any concrete solutions to this problem. It is therefore worthwhile to examine what options the government, the only body capable of implementing them, has.

Cost-containment policies, as Dr. Ishai says, do mean in general that the patient "has lost the freedom to choose his doctor and the doctor has lost the freedom to practise according to his conscience." But even in a totally free market health-care system these lofty principles of medical care, although praiseworthy, are a myth as far as most patients and their doctors are concerned.

The patient's right to choose his own doctor has always been affected by the geographical distribution of medical manpower and his ability to pay for the range of services he requires, and the doctor's ability to practise "as he wants" is similarly restricted by the resources he has at his command and the ability of his patients to bear the cost of any treatment he would like to recommend or prescribe. One has only to look at the overall standard of dental health in this country to understand this point all too clearly.

The options which are available to reduce the spiralling expansion of health-care system costs can be classified as follows:

- (1) Those aimed at restricting access to health care.
- (2) Those aimed at limiting the availability of health-care resources.
- (3) Those aimed at improving the efficiency of health-care resources.
- (4) Those which encourage privatization of services and resources.
- (5) Those which aim at trying to restrict the allocation of finance to the health system or to parts of it.

(1) Restricting access
THE IDEOLOGY of Kupat Holim stands for the availability of a wide range of health-care services to all members of society on a basis of equity and equality, as also does, for example, the National Health Service in the United Kingdom and many similar voluntary and compulsory health insurance schemes in other Western countries. In such systems there is usually little direct financial contribution by members at their point of contact with the service (copayments), and special arrangements are also usually made to take care of minimum wage ear-

Recipe for cutting health-care costs

A. L. Furst

ners and the unemployed who may have difficulty with payment of their regular premiums.

However, economic recession and changes in the age structure of populations have made policy makers consider curtailing access to the very health-care systems they have created, usually by introducing or increasing copayments for items of service. This is in the belief that such payments deter patients with so-called trivial illnesses from seeking medical help.

Attempts by government in this country to introduce such copayments have been stoutly resisted by the Histadrut and indeed experience elsewhere has shown that their effect on limiting access to health care is negligible. This is because those patients who can afford to do so take out extra insurance to cover these copayments, and the poor, who can afford neither these charges nor extra insurance, invariably benefit from additional government protection which it would be politically and socially unacceptable not to provide.

Incidentally where such copayments have been introduced in connection with items such as drug prescriptions, research has repeatedly shown that such charges do not alter demand. In this respect I know of no convincing evidence from Israel that Kupat Holim's charges for drugs has moderated demand here either. In short such copayments do not reduce expenditure but only remove it to another part of the system.

(2) Limiting availability of resources
MOST EFFORTS in this respect are focused on reducing the number of hospital beds (hospital care is the most expensive form of medical care), and to a certain extent on reducing the number of doctors.

Hospitalization is a complex issue with different countries having proportionately widely differing numbers of hospital beds, for their populations. Hospital stays for similar conditions often vary widely not only between countries but within the same country, and indeed even within the same hospital! The Federal Republic of Germany has one of the highest numbers of hospital bed densities in the world, and its health-care system is characterized by unnecessarily long hospital stays with patients not being released until they

are "fully" recovered.

There is mounting evidence that a similar situation may prevail in parts of the hospital sector in Israel and further objective research into this is urgently required, particularly in the field of pediatric hospitalization where the rates here are very high by any standards.

For example, trainees undertaking part of their post-graduate specialization in family medicine in such units frequently tell me that, at those times when the department is relatively empty, senior doctors often issue them with clear instructions to fill up the beds with "acute" admissions from the emergency room without paying too much attention to the severity of the cases concerned.

The connection between an increasing number of doctors within a medical-care system and an increased consumption of medical resources within it is self-evident, and the recent discussions about closing an entire medical school in this country, although not practical in the existing climate of public and political opinion, is based on considerations of this sort put forward by medical economists.

(3) Improving the efficiency of health-care resources
THIS APPROACH attempts to make better use of existing resources and facilities. One aspect is concerned with attempts at prevention of illness and their permanent cure.

In spite of its attractions and significant investment in it made by some countries, it must be admitted that results so far have only been modest. One area, however, in which some economies might be achieved is health education. In countries where significant efforts and attention have been devoted to this, real savings have been achieved by returning responsibility for some disease prevention and health care to the family and the community, with a resulting reduction in the pressure on the health-care system's institutions and resources.

Far more attractive economically speaking is an emphasis on the expansion of professional health care in the community and the development of a network of community services for the treatment of illnesses which might otherwise have to be channelled into much more expensive forms of institutionalized care such as hospitals or longer-stay facilities.

In this respect it is worthwhile noting that in those countries where referral to hospital doctors is through community medical channels only, hospital admission rates are in general much lower than those where the patient can gain access to these doctors directly without needing to be initially referred by a family physician or general practitioner.

The example of the Netherlands where there has already been heavy investment in medical back-up services in the community with a concomitant drop in both hospitalization rates and lengths of stay could be profitably emulated in Israel and elsewhere.

(4) Privatization of services and resources
HEALTH-CARE systems in most Western countries are funded and managed by a mixture of public and private institutions although, except for the United Kingdom, little is public in the sense of government; most "public" health-care organizations being voluntary or, at least as with Kupat Holim, non-profit making in essence. Even in the United States only about a third of total health-care costs are accounted for by the private sector.

Although thoughts about privatization of medical-care services are currently in vogue in most countries, including Israel, economic opinion suggests that it does not provide significant cost-containment answers. Politically, for progressive governments, the health care of a nation is simply not compatible with the "survival of the fittest" rules of free market competition. Again I would point to the example of dental care provision in Israel to illustrate this point.

(5) Restricting allocation of financial resources
IN THIS approach medical institutions within a medical-care system are funded by a set budget based on an agreed formula, with incentives for keeping within it and, possibly, penalties for not doing so. Some hospitals, especially in the United States, currently work according to

such "clinical budgeting" whereby their budget is divided into two parts. One is for elements not easily divided between departments such as fuel and food bills and the other calculated to meet the prospectively determined direct and indirect expenditure of each individual department.

The success of such a set up depends on a prior agreement to the budget on the one hand, and, on the other, to the entitlement of departments which remain within it to retain a substantial part of such savings for their own use.

But the understandable problems involved in exacting penalties in such schemes has brought about other more external methods of control whereby hospitals are paid on a discharge basis for each patient, adjusted to reflect the age and type of patient in question, rather than on a per diem basis.

It would be interesting to see what would happen in this country if hospital departments and large community clinics agreed to such an annual budget in advance and were allowed to reap the benefits of any savings made over the course of the year.

This of course is not in keeping with Dr. Ishai's contention that "doctors are naturally reluctant to collaborate in the regulation of expenses" which suggests that in Israel at least, such restrictions might be more effectively imposed from outside if this method of cost-containment were to be applied.

In a recent article which summed up these various ways of containing the explosion of health care costs the authors, both leading health-care economists, concluded:

"... restricting access and limiting availability produce weak policies which vested interests are able to successfully evade, circumvent and resist. Improving efficiency holds promise but requires government approaches as the traditional reliance on market competition has had counter-productive results such as increases in input prices. Privatization is likely in the long run to increase costs rather than reduce them as the history of free-market health-care is not one of containment. Restricting the financial input into the health care system holds the most promise but here again a country must be prepared to take public 'medicine' which some find hard to swallow. Although there is no one best way countries will have to choose from this 'menu' as one thing is fairly certain; no country will find the increases of the past, politically or economically acceptable in the future."

Which items on this menu will we in Israel choose?
Dr. Furst is chairman of the Israel Association of Family Physicians.

READERS' LETTERS

DRUSE GRIEVANCES

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post* Sir, - I refer to your editorial of January 6, "A cause for shame," and agree with your sentiments that it is a disgrace and a shameful state of affairs that we, the Druse, are treated in the manner we are.

Contrary to what many people here think, we are required by law to serve in the IDF, just as Jewish male youth. With the formation of the State of Israel, our past leaders pledged our allegiance to the new state and what they thought would be a bright, new future of democracy, equal rights and fellowship for all peoples living here. As history and present circumstances reveal, for the Druse this hope has far from become a reality.

Like me, many of the army-serving Druse have come to the conclusion that our leaders made a

great mistake, as they deprived each individual of the right to decide, like the other minorities in Israel, whether he wants the obligation of serving in the IDF or not.

Another lack of equality is that we have no chosen representative in the Knesset. Amal Nasser is not the political representative of the Druse majority. He represents the Likud and his membership is only based on an internal Likud vote.

To solve our problems, we ask for no more rights than any holder of an Israeli identity card expects. Let us, as individuals, decide for ourselves whether to serve in the IDF or not, and allow us to vote for our own Druse Knesset member rather than have one not of our choice foisted upon us.

S. AMIR

Peki'in.

RIGHTEOUS GENTILES

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post* Sir, - Kudos to the Post's Ernie Meyer for his excellent and well written feature of January 16, "The Making of a Righteous Gentile."

I found the article most informative and enlightening; it provided me with a greater understanding and appreciation for the special Yad

Vashem Committee on Righteous Gentiles headed by Israel's Supreme Court Justice Moshe Bejski.

IRVING M. GOLDENBERG
Founding Director (Retired),
Holocaust Awareness Institute,
Centre for Judaic Studies,
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Jerusalem.

HOSPITALS

(Continued from Page One)

The paralysis of the Padah Committee was illustrated by its acting chairman, Gilad Neuberger, a Treasury staffer in the Civil Service Commission.

"I don't know if the workers' claims are justified, and I don't know who does know if pay is higher in the Kupat Holim hospitals," Such matters, he said, were not the business of the committee as he understood its brief, which dates back to 1971.

He said that this was the first time he had heard the workers demand that pay-slips be compared openly. Committee members were unanimous in blaming the Treasury for last week's strike. It had procrastinated endlessly, because for some reason that's what it found appropriate, said Ran Cohen.

The Treasury should settle accounts with the Histadrut and not with much less well-paid government workers, Ya'acov Shamai, head of the Likud faction in the Histadrut urged.

If the strike is held, no food will be prepared, no garbage collected, no laundry washed and no wards cleaned.

That cannot happen again, the committee said last night.

What was needed, according to Arbeli-Almosino and Namir, was still more time.

But Cohen said that the staff had been working under back-to-work orders since last March.

The workers told the committee they had had enough talk. They felt that they were being shunted into a corner. Now was the time for action,

and their council insisted that that meant a strike.

Earlier, Nissim told the health minister that the workers were demanding salary increments over and above equalization with Kupat Holim hospital staffers. Neuberger gave no indication of such a claim.

The hospital workers claim that they earn as little as NIS 400 a month.

Health Ministry hospitalization services director Moshe Mashiah last night called for volunteers and relatives of patients to go to the wards today to help distribute food brought in from outside and collect some of the garbage.

The ministry has ordered heads of general hospitals to evacuate all non-critical patients. But psychiatric and geriatric patients, the hardest-hit in any strike, cannot be sent home.

No outpatient clinics in government hospitals will operate today, and all elective surgery will be postponed.

The State Attorney's director of labour law, Eli Ben-Tovim, told *The Jerusalem Post* last night that the Jerusalem Labour Court would be asked to impose stiff fines on the hospital workers' leaders for contempt of court, and to issue orders to enforce the court's original injunction. He added that he had also proposed that the Health Ministry take disciplinary action against the union leaders.

A 1972 law prohibits imprisonment in contempt of court cases resulting from strikes. Imprisonment is possible only for violation of back to work orders issued under emergency regulations.

CLERGY POWER POLITICS

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post* Sir, - In his letter concerning Conservative Judaism and conversions (December 23, 1986), Yisrael Woolf asks why, in accordance with Halacha, does the Conservative Movement oppose the proposed amendment to the Law of Return, which ostensibly would recognize only halachic conversions?

If the questioner were an inhabitant of the planet Mars, I suppose it might be a good question, but any earthling who has followed the sordid attempt to amend the Law of Return knows that its sole purpose is to grant the Orthodox rabbinate a monopoly on conversions. Since anything done under non-Orthodox auspices is considered by the Orthodox community to be "non-halachic" *ad initium*, the inclusion of the word "Halacha" in the proposed amendment is a code-word for

"Orthodox." This is known to anybody even vaguely familiar with the controversy.

Those proposing the amendment are concerned neither with Halacha nor theology, but only with clergy power politics. What they have failed to win on the battlefield of ideas they now seek to gain through coercive power of a secular law-making body. The Knesset is not a religious authority and it is not the proper forum in which the kasbrut of conversions can be decided upon.

Furthermore, I find it disgraceful that certain Orthodox Jews such as Yitzhak Peretz will seek to use the Knesset to enforce the standing of their own religio-political fiefdoms, but then will turn around and utterly disregard its laws when it does not suit them.

Rabbi EPHRAIM RUBINGER
Memphis, Tenn.

SHOPPING MALLS

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post* Sir, - I have read with interest your report of January 7 on another shopping mall in the office, this time in Jerusalem.

Enclosed malls, popular in the 60s, nowadays have their validity put in question. When car-oriented, they need vast parking lots that cut up neighbourhoods. When in the middle of cities, they syphon off shoppers, reducing the vitality of shopping streets. Introverted, they turn their back to the street, both literally and physically. Even well-designed and smaller malls, like the one attached to the Dan Hotel on the Carmel, have blank facades to the street - albeit marble covered.

Aware of the sterility of past centres, attempts are being made to

create bazaar-like interiors, in an artificial manner and mostly in North America.

Does Israel with its benign climate really need these malls? It has the tradition of the *shuk* and of bazaars, well suited to its environment - and much appreciated by tourists. It has the tradition of the small Eastern European shopkeeper with its strong individuality. True, many of the older shopping streets have fallen into neglect. But does one need to throw out the baby with the bath water? Shopping malls may be justified in some cases, but a good look at revitalization may be more beneficial in the long run.

ANDRE HOFFMANN,
Town planner
Haifa (Montreal).

O'CONNOR'S VISIT

Church and the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. In fact, all of us here in New York were surprised to learn about the last-minute changes. Indeed, upon his return to New York, the cardinal expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the warm reception he had been given by officials and the Israeli public.

I am sorry that Mr. Segal fell victim to unfounded rumours.

MOSHE YEGAR
Consul-General of Israel in New York
New York.

THE WOUND REMAINS

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post* Sir, - As an American citizen who loves Israel dearly, I felt a sense of shame in response to my government's attempt to save their own necks at the expense of Israel ("Israel's U.S. allies play a nasty game" - January 16).

Israel and/or the Jewish people have always been the scapegoat for the mistakes and problems of others. Though in this case, apologies may be given and the truth of Israel's involvement (or should I say non-involvement) may emerge, the wound will remain, as Hirsch Goodman so accurately stated in his article.

DEBBIE LOFTON
Jerusalem (Texas).

NO SMOKING

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post* Sir, - The Minister of Health may have ordered a ban on smoking in hospitals and clinics, but no one takes the slightest bit of notice. I have seen both patients and staff smoking in Kupat Holim clinics and when I ask them not to smoke, they just laugh and walk away.

Unless the law is enforced, putting up "no smoking" signs is just a waste of time and money.

MIRIAM WOLFF
Kfar Daniel.

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